

# Feature selection for reservoir characterisation by Bayesian Network

Pedram Masoudi<sup>1\*</sup>, Yousef Asgarinezhad<sup>2</sup>, Behzad Tokhmechi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Presently, PhD Student and Researcher of Petroleum Geoscience at School of Mining Eng., University College of Engineering (Fanni), University of Tehran. Formerly, Researcher of Petroleum Geoscience at Department of Research and Technology, Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), Tehran, Iran*

<sup>2</sup> *School of Mining, Petroleum and Geophysics Engineering, University of Shahrood, Shahrood, Iran*

*\*Corresponding author (E-mail: [masoudip@ut.ac.ir](mailto:masoudip@ut.ac.ir))*

## Abstract

The more accurate feature identification, the more precise reservoir characterisation. Porosity, permeability and other rock properties could be estimated and classified by analytical and intelligent methods. Feature selection, plays a vital role in the process of identification. In this work, two goals are followed: first, developing Bayesian Network, K2 algorithm, as a complementary means (not an alternative) to find interrelationships of petrophysical parameters. Second, feature conditioning for estimating porosity and permeability, vug and fracture detection, and net pay determination. Due to the results, bulk density log is introduced as the most important feature for characterising the reservoir because it is found useful for identifying all the studied reservoir features.

**Keywords:** feature conditioning; porosity; permeability; fracture; vug; net pay

## 1. Introduction

1  
2  
3  
4 The concept of Bayesian Network (BN) was firstly developed in the fields of electrical  
5 and computer engineering. (Pearl, 1986) and (Cooper and Herskovits, 1992) are of pioneers in  
6 Bayesian Network (BN) who defined this concept, and introduced the methodology clearly and  
7 applicably at the time. Later on, this methodology was used in a wide range of science and  
8 technology. (Doguc and Ramirez-Marquez, 2009) utilized BN in estimating system reliability.  
9 Khor et al constructed three different types of BN classifiers in detecting network attacks; and by  
10 comparing the results, they concluded that these three types are well equivalent in performance  
11 (Khor et al., 2009). BN is also used in some other fields like forecasting price in stock market  
12 (Zuo and Kita, 2012). It is some years that BN has been entered in geoscience studies. Based on  
13 the records of Scopus database; among all fields of earth science, remote sensing benefits from  
14 BN the most.

15  
16 In petroleum industry, BN is used to assess situations and conditions probabilistically,  
17 e.g. in downstream it is used in circulation monitoring system (Mansure et al., 1999); safety  
18 instrumentation and risk reduction at wellsite (Kannan, 2006); identifying candidate wells for  
19 gel-polymer treatment (Ghoraishy et al., 2008); drilling industry (Al-yami and Schubert, 2012;  
20 Al-Yami et al., 2010; Rajaieyamchee and Bratvold, 2009); production issues and history  
21 matching (Abdollahzadeh et al., 2011; Hermann et al., 2011; Khaz'ali et al., 2011); completion  
22 (Al-yami et al., 2011); and Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) (Zerafat et al., 2011)

23  
24 There are some publications of application of BN in upstream, specifically in basin  
25 analysis from economical evaluation of prospects (Van Wees et al., 2008) to studying  
26 dependency relationships between geological features (Martinelli et al., 2011; Martinelli et al.,  
27 2013; Rasheva and Bratvold, 2011). In addition, there are two recently published papers in the

upstream that have used BN in identifying effective logs, i.e. feature selection for determining productive zones through oil wells. Due to the results of one of articles, the ratio of LLD to LLS and individually LLD are the most effective raw features for detecting productive zones through oil wells (Masoudi et al., 2012c). Based on the results of the latter, porosity and water saturation are the most important extracted features for evaluating productive zones (Masoudi et al., 2012a).

It is worthy to mention that feature selection/ extraction is a basic and important stage in the process of identification (Russo and Ramponi, 1994). It is not a good idea to consider all available information as input parameters. In another words, redundant information or duplications should be detected and removed from dataset (Bleiholder and Naumann, 2008).

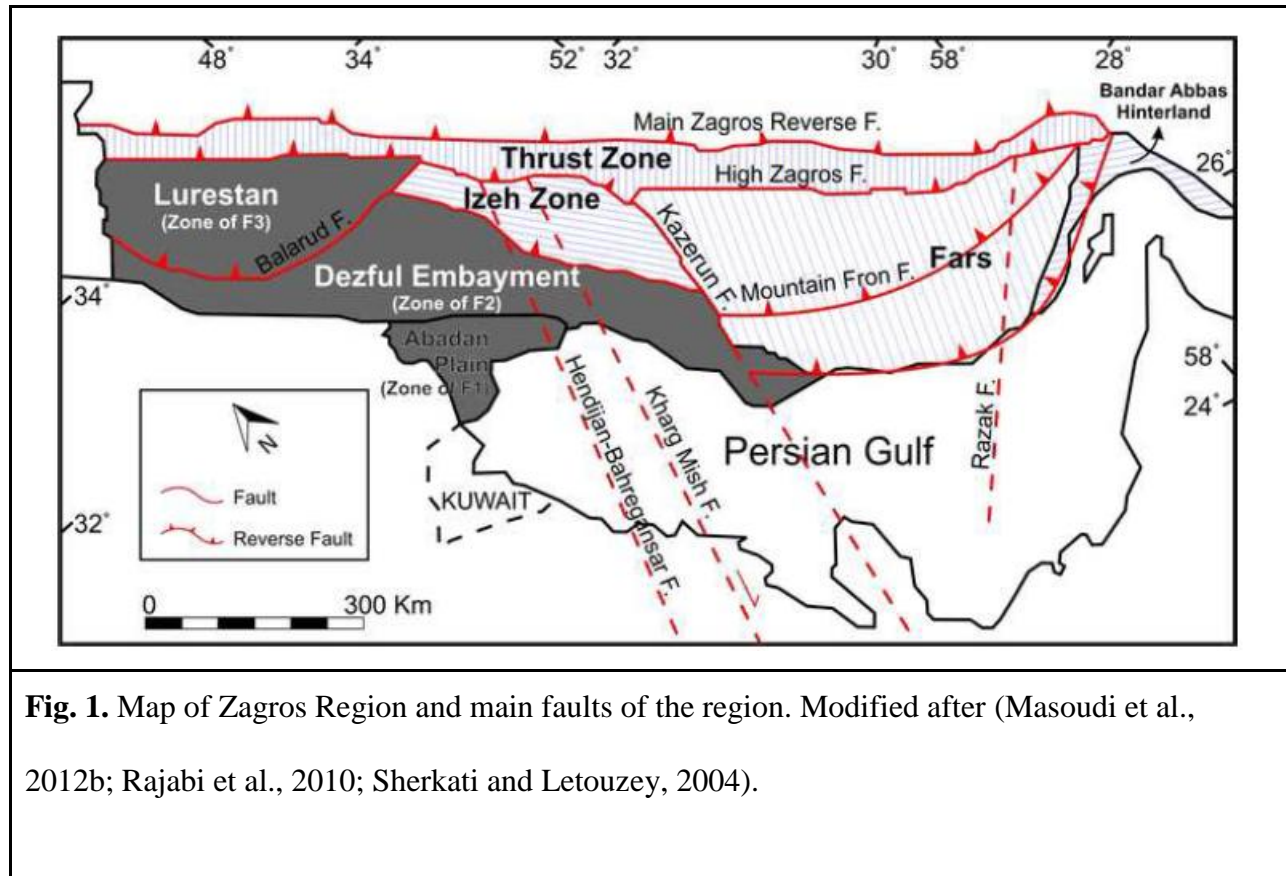
The mentioned literature review reveals that newly developed concept of BN in petroleum industry is gradually going to become more and more applicable and renowned in exploratory investigations. As BN is a powerful tool to identify causal relationships between different features and phenomena, we have utilized it as a means to select effective petrophysical features for reservoir identification. The proposed procedure is based on correlation and dependency relations between reservoir properties and petrophysical parameters. In fact, we think that the deeper and the more precise understanding of interrelations and causations between parameters, the more effective feature selection, which plays an important role in success of any identification procedure; i.e. estimation, classification or clustering. Therefore, in this paper, authors follow two aims; the first one is developing the concept of dependency and Bayesian Network as an intelligent methodology for finding causality relationships and feature selection in petrophysical assessments, which is the novelty of this article. Second goal is introducing useful

1  
2  
3  
4 petrophysical parameters for identifying some reservoir properties (porosity, permeability, open  
5 fractures, vuggy porosity and net pay) within oil wells, which is a practical aid for  
6  
7 petrophysicists and geoscientists in their studies.  
8  
9

10  
11  
12  
13 To do so, a brief review on a famous feature selection criterion, correlation coefficient, is  
14  
15 presented following introducing available datasets; then, concept of “dependency” and  
16  
17 methodology of “Bayesian Network” are added to make respected readers familiar with the  
18  
19 concept and methodology. Thereafter, generated BNs and their outputs in various aspects of  
20  
21 reservoir characterisation (estimating porosity and permeability, vug and fracture detection, and  
22  
23 net pay determination) are included, followed by discussion and conclusion.  
24  
25  
26  
27

## 28 29 **2. Datasets** 30 31

32  
33 In this work, petrophysical datasets of three Iranian oil-fields in Zagros Region have been  
34  
35 studied. For the sake of confidentiality of data and information in National Iranian Oil Company  
36  
37 (NIOC), the names of oil-fields under study (F1, F2 and F3) have not been enclosed but their  
38  
39 approximate locations are indicated on Fig. 1.  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65



F1 is a giant field in Abadan Plain with North-South trend that has been used for evaluating net pay zones and estimating porosity and permeability. In this field, Sarvak Formation (Albian to Turonian) in six exploratory wells is studied. For fracture detection, one oil well in another giant oil-field (F2) is chosen. F2 is a Northwest- Southeast anticline in northern side of Kazerun Fault in South Dezful Area, very close to Izeh Zone. The reason why this field is selected for fracture study is availability of interpreted image logs and fullest of petrophysical data. For vug detection, a relatively small-sized anticline-shaped field (F3) in central Lurestan Area is selected. Access of authors to studied core reports is the reason for selecting this field to find causal relationship of vuggy porosity with petrophysical data. F3 has the same trend as F2, and like F1, investigation is fulfilled again within Sarvak Formation. Whereas the approximate

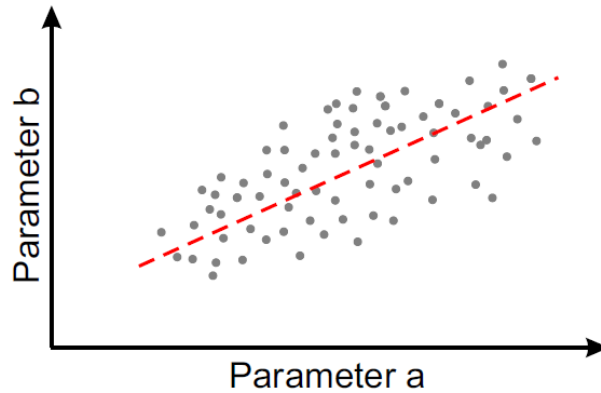
locations could be seen in Fig. 1; summary of data and the purpose of choosing these three fields is summarized in Table 1.

Summary of available data and information in F1 are shown in Table 2. CGR, DT, NPHI, RHOB, LLD, LLS and MSFL are common well logs in all six wells; therefore, in order to incorporate maximum number of wells, other well logs are not included in this study. In addition, because there is no core data in well 6, this well is exempted from porosity- permeability study. Also, due to lack of well test data in well 5, this well is exempted from net pay investigation.

In each of F2 and F3 fields, only one well is available. Available data in F2 are CGR, NPHI, DT, PEF, RHOB and SGR well logs, and interpretation of open fractures on image log; whereas available data in F3 are GR, Cali, RHOB, DRHO, NPHI, DT and LLD well logs, and observed vuggy porosity in cores.

### 3. A Simple Review of the Correlation Coefficient

Correlation coefficient is a well-known factor, measuring correlation (mutual relationship) between two different variables. There are different standpoints for calculating correlation coefficient: algebraic, geometric, and trigonometric. Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient is the most well-known formula for calculating correlation coefficient of two variables from algebraic viewpoint (Lee Rodgers and Nicewander, 1988). Fig. 2 shows two correlated variables; i.e.  $b$  changes when  $a$  changes in the same or reverse direction (variables in Fig. 2 are correlated in the same direction). Although correlation coefficient is a very valuable and important factor for understanding interrelations of variables, there are some insufficiencies in using it (Bobko, 2001).

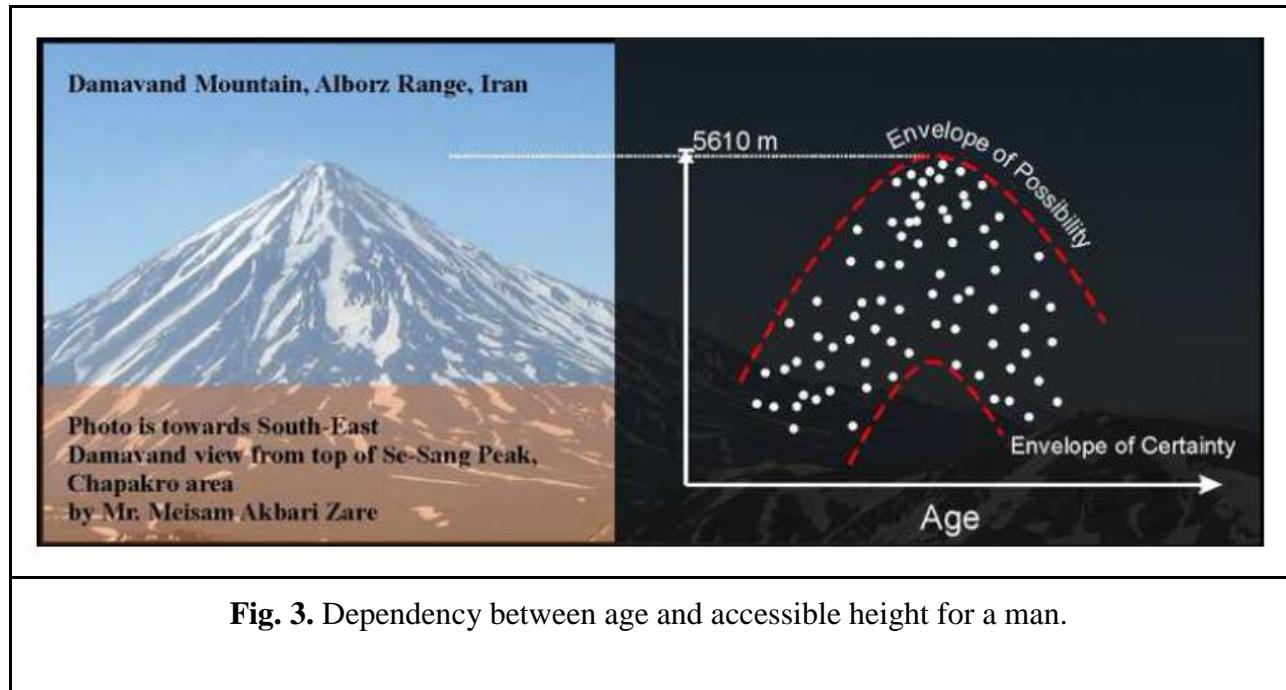


**Fig. 2.** The more correlated variables (here  $a$  and  $b$ ), the closer dots to the dashed line.

One easy-understanding example for showing insufficiency of correlation coefficient is in describing causal relationship between father and son. If the number of adults rises in a city, it does not necessarily mean that the number of children has risen too (Whereas Population Growth Rate is positive in developing countries, it is very close to zero or even negative in developed countries, and is not directly related to number of fathers or adults). But when the number of kids rises, you are 100% sure that the number of fathers (adults) has risen; because every kid needs a father to be born but fathers do not need their children for existing! Therefore, there is no mutual relation or correlation between number of fathers and children; however one of them is dependent on the other (directional relation).

Another example for insufficiency of correlation coefficient in showing interrelation of two variables, revealed in Fig. 3. If 100 people are asked to climb Damavand Mountain (highest peak in Iran with elevation of 5610 meters above the geoid), and plot the height of which they have reached against their ages, the plot would be like in Fig. 3. In fact, the acquired data is distributed between two envelopes that show possible and certain accessible heights for each age. The shapes of these two envelopes are similar to an inverse “V”, because teenagers and olds are

not able in reaching high heights, whereas young people and middle-aged can even reach the peak. Correlation coefficient of dataset of this plot is something close to zero but without any shadow of doubt, there is a relationship between maximum accessible height and age in mountain climbing, while they are not correlated due to correlation coefficient.



A practical example of this inefficiency in petrophysics could be found on cross-plot of Calliper-Vug and RHOB-Vug on Fig. 8. In these two cross-plots, there is no mutual relationship between two plotted variables as in Fig. 3, later we show that both Calliper and RHOB are important features for vug detection.

#### 4. What Is Dependency?

This work introduces dependency between variables as an alternative for finding related variables, especially when there is no mutual relationship like relationship of father and child. Now, what is dependency? Each field has its own definition of dependency, and they are close to



each other. Oxford dictionary states that “**dependence**” means “the state of relying on or being controlled by someone or something else” (OxfordDictionaries, 2010). From mathematical viewpoint, probabilistic is a means for evaluating dependency of variables on each other. Probabilistically, two variables are called independence, when the joint probability of them is equal to product of their own probability (Olofsson, 2011):

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) \times P(B) \quad (1)$$

In the above equation, **A** and **B** are independent sets. Bayesian Probability is theory of studying conditional probability between two or more dependent variables, which uses Bayes rule for calculating evidential probabilities (Duda et al., 2000). Bayesian Network, which is introduced here in order to find out dependency relation between petrophysical variables, is mainly based on Bayesian theory of conditional probabilities.

## 5. Methodology

### 5.1. Bayesian Network

Consider five measured variables (named  $a_1$  to  $a_6$ ) that are supposed to be effective on another unknown variable, called  $b$ , and each of these seven parameters can admit four different states. Therefore there are four powered seven (i.e.  $4^7$ ) possible states, and it is not only hard to compute and consider all these states (an NP-hard problem), but also impossible in the case of lack of complete and comprehensive dataset of records.

Bayesian Network is a directed acyclic graph that nodes represent variables and edges show direct dependencies between the linked variables. Now, suppose that dependency

relationships between those previously mentioned seven variables can be represented as in Fig.

4. Based on this graph, the variable  $b$  is only dependent on the variables  $a_3$ ,  $a_4$  and  $a_5$ . Also, it is simple to formulate probability of  $b$  as:

$$P(b) = P(b \cap a_5) \times P(b \cap a_4 \cap a_3) \quad (2)$$

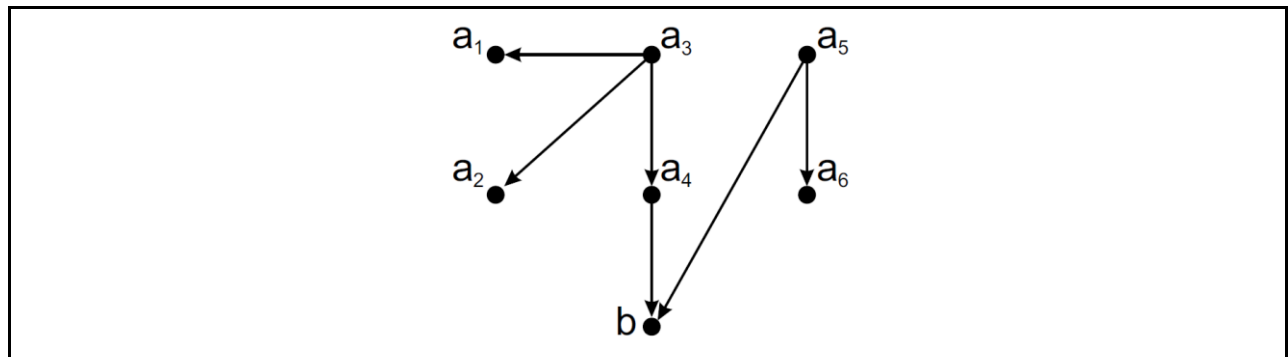
$$P(b) = P(b \cap a_5) \times P(b|a_4 \cap a_3) \times P(a_4|a_3) \quad (3)$$

$$P(b) = P(b \cap a_5) \times P(b|a_4 \cap a_3) \times P(a_4|a_3)$$

That  $P(x)$  is probability of occurrence of  $x$ ,  $P(x \cap y)$  is joint probability, i.e. probability

of occurrence of  $x$  and  $y$  simultaneously,  $P(x|y)$  is probability of  $x$ , considering  $y$ , i.e.

conditional probability. The first equation is inferred from independency of the variable  $a_5$  and set of variables  $a_3$  and  $a_4$ . For better understanding of equation 3, respected readers are referred to (Pearl, 1986).



**Fig. 4.** A Bayesian Network, showing dependency relation of seven variables of  $a_1$  to  $a_6$  and  $b$ .

1  
2  
3  
4       There are two methodologies for constructing BNs: constraint-based methods and score-  
5  
6 based methods (Lauría, 2008). The former is used in cases that user is confident about the causal  
7  
8 relationships between variables. For instance Total Organic Carbon (TOC) is a prerequisite for  
9  
10 oil generation, and none of specialists believe that oil could be generated without having some  
11  
12 least amount of TOC (Al-Ameri et al., 2009). Furthermore there is a dependency relation  
13  
14 between TOC and oil generation. In fact, constraint-based methods are judgmental methods that  
15  
16 an expert is responsible for (Martinelli et al., 2011).  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

22  
23       In some cases, it is difficult or even impossible for a user to determine dependency  
24  
25 relations between variables. In these cases, data-driven approaches are used to find the most  
26  
27 probable state of dependency between each pair of variables. In score-based methods, a  
28  
29 calculated score is set as a criterion to find the dependency relation between two variables. For  
30  
31 using score-based methods, two elements should be specified: search procedure and scoring  
32  
33 metric. Scoring function should be associated with probability of a candidate directed acyclic  
34  
35 graph, and search procedure is considered as an optimization problem. Greedy hill-climbing  
36  
37 algorithm, K2 algorithm, simulated annealing optimization, Monte Carlo are some of those  
38  
39 score-based methods, known as heuristic approaches to construct a BN (Cooper and Herskovits,  
40  
41 1992; Lauría, 2008; Niedermayer, 2008). In this work, K2 algorithm is used in order to construct  
42  
43 BNs.  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50

## 51   **5.2. K2 Algorithm**

52  
53

54       K2 algorithm is a score-based method for constructing BNs, although it is not completely  
55  
56 free of constraint. Two constraints should be considered prior to running K2 algorithm. The first  
57  
58 one is to state the maximum possible parents that each node can have; the other is providing a  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65

true initial order of variables by user that variables are not dependent in reverse order. E.g. if the initial order of  $(a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots, a_n)$  is provided by user,  $a_j$  could be dependent on  $a_i$  ( $i < j$ ); though  $a_i$  cannot be dependent on  $a_j$  but if  $a_i$  and  $a_j$  are mutually correlated. After considering these two constraints, following algorithm should be applied on the dataset (Doguc and Ramirez-Marquez, 2009):

Algorithm K2(T,u):

Input: dataset of observations, T, and maximum possible number of parents for each node, u.

Output: Bayesian Network, BN.

(1) For each variable in input dataset, T

(1-1) Create node  $A_i$  as  $i$ -th variable, and add it to BN

(1-2) Create an empty set as set of parents ( $Pa_i$ ) of  $A_i$

(1-3) Calculate  $f(i, Pa_i)$  by:

$$f(i, Pa_i) = \prod_{j=1}^{q_i} \frac{(d_i - 1)!}{(\alpha_{ijk} + d_i - 1)!} \prod_{k=1}^{d_i} \alpha_{ijk} ! \quad (4)$$

Where,  $\alpha_{ijk}$  is number of times that  $A_i$  and  $A_j$  are in a specific state of  $k$ .  $d_i$  is number of states of  $A_i$ . Finally,  $q_i$  is number of possible parents, i.e.  $2^{n(Pa_i)}$ .

(1-4) While number of elements of  $Pa_i$  is not larger than  $u$ :

(1-4-1) Assume  $X_z$  as a parental node of  $X_i$

(1-4-2) Calculate  $f(i, Pa_i \cup \{A_z\})$

(1-4-3) If the score of  $f(i, Pa_i \cup \{A_z\})$  is larger than  $f(i, Pa_i)$ , fix  $A_z$  as a permanent node of  $A_i$ , otherwise, remove it from parental set ( $Pa_i$ ).

(2) Return BN

## 6. Results

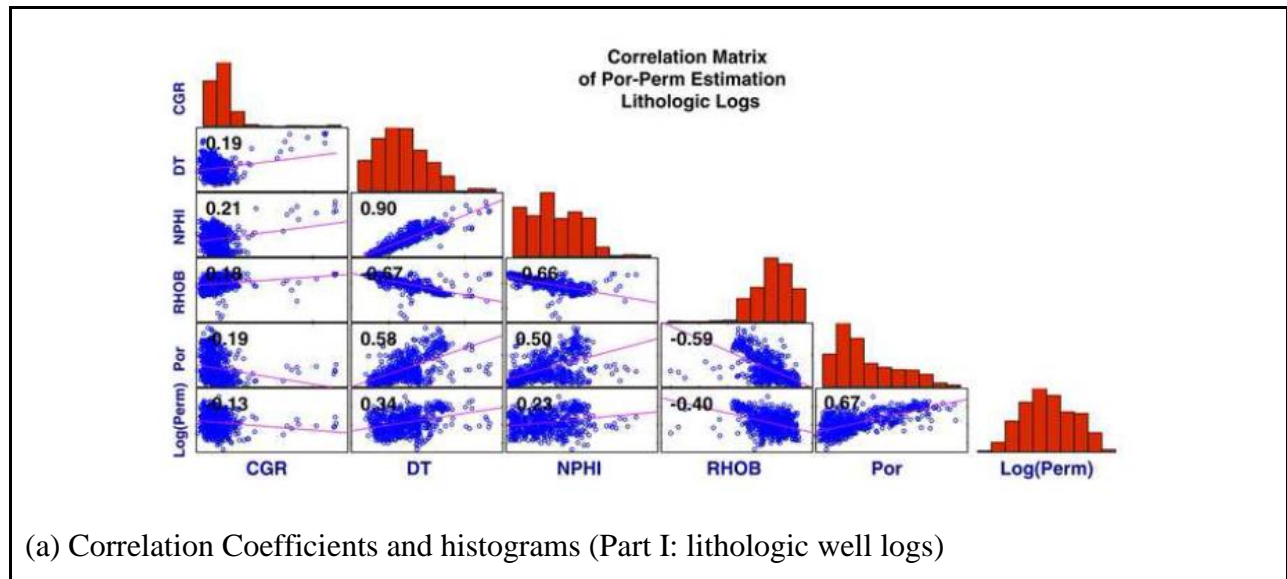
In this section, correlation coefficient and Bayesian Network are utilized to find out effective features for reservoir identification. In the first part, important features for porosity and permeability estimation are determined, and in the second, third and fourth parts, useful features for fracture and vug detection and net pay assessment are determined respectively.

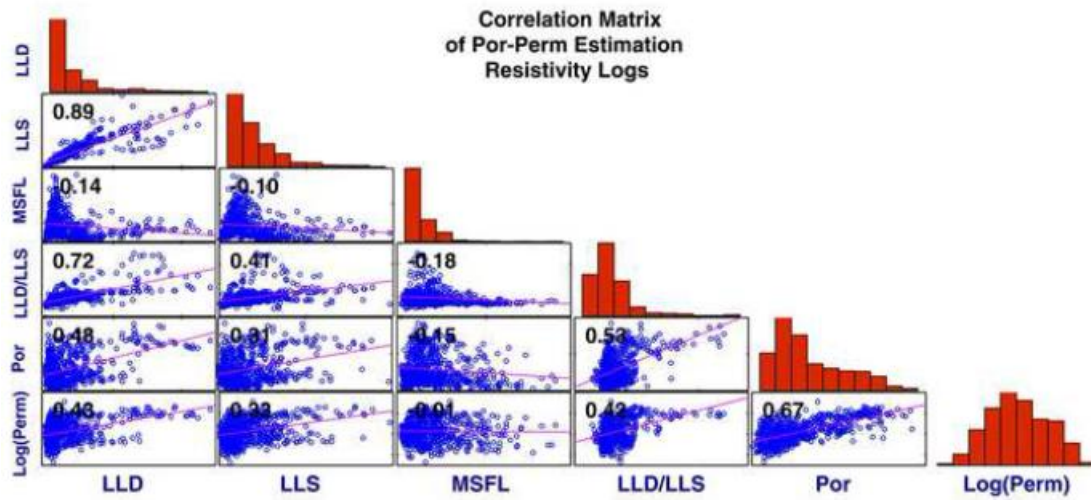
### 6.1. Causal Relationships in Porosity and Permeability Estimation

Estimating porosity and permeability of reservoir rocks is very essential in reservoir characterization, static and dynamic modelling. There are many investigations about estimating porosity and permeability of reservoirs. The input features, used for estimating these two parameters have not remained unchanged during time. Table 3 shows different datasets, introduced for porosity and permeability estimation in chronological order.

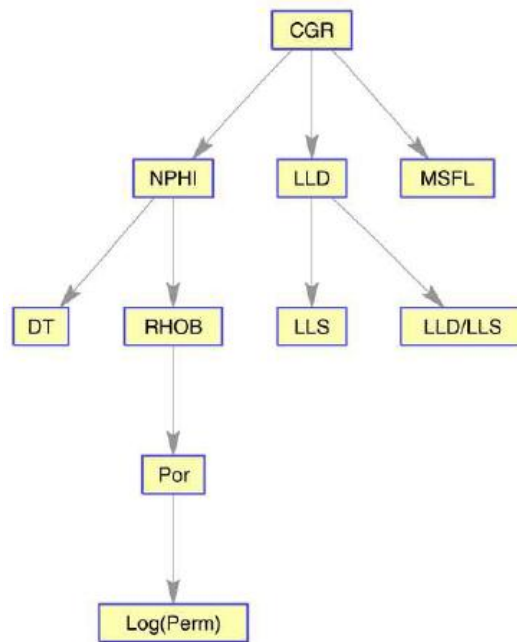
In order to find out, appropriate features for estimating porosity and permeability, scatter plots of all logs, and porosity and permeability of core analysis are plotted on Fig. 5 (a) and (b). Then, correlation coefficients between each pair of variables are calculated and shown on each plot. Thereafter, Bayesian Network (Fig. 5 (c)) is constructed by K2 algorithm with the order of: CGR, NPHI, RHOB, DT, LLD, MSFL, LLS, LLD/LLS, Porosity, Log(Perm)

Lognormal distribution of permeability is the reason why permeability is used in logarithmic scale. It is reported that it would be much better to estimate logarithm of permeability instead of raw permeability to have a more precise estimation of body (not extremes) of permeability values (Masoudi et al., 2011a).





(b) Correlation Coefficients and histograms (Part II: resistivity well logs)



(c) Bayesian Network

**Fig. 5.** Relationships between features in Sarvak Formation of F1 for porosity and permeability estimation.

Due to criterion of correlation coefficient, porosity is relatively well-correlated to Log(Perm) and RHOB. Based on constructed BN, porosity is related to Log(Perm) (child) and

RHOB (parent) in the first order. Therefore, both criteria, unanimously agree that the first two features, related to porosity are Log(Perm) and RHOB. Again due to correlation coefficient, Log(Perm) is relatively well-correlated with porosity and LLD. BN approves that porosity is the most influential factor for estimating Log(Perm), whereas defines RHOB in the second stage.

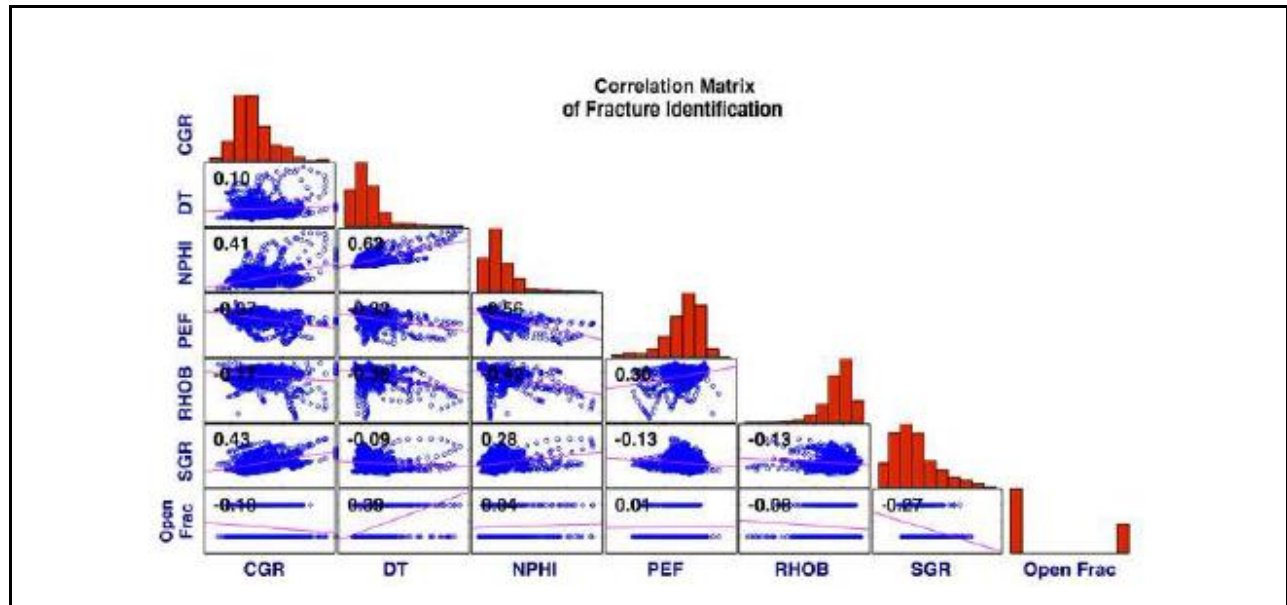
It is relatively easy to come on an agreement in feature selection for porosity because priorities of both criteria are very close to each other. Three features of RHOB, DT and NPHI are the most related features to porosity; then, LLD and CGR. For Log(Perm), it is a bit tricky. The two mostly related features for permeability estimation are porosity and RHOB. After these two, LLD, NPHI and DT could be named.

## **6.2. Causal Relationships for Fracture Detection**

Studying fractures is much more complex than porosity and permeability due to wild nature of fractures and variety of fracture geometry. Image logs are main means to identify and characterize fractures (Ja'Fari et al., 2012), although in case of lack of this information source, traditional well logs are used (Table 4).

Like before, to find out appropriate features for fracture study, scatter plots of all logs, and identified open fracture on image logs are shown on Fig. 6. Then, correlation coefficients between each pair of variables are calculated and are shown on each plot. Due to correlation coefficients, DT and SGR are the most important features for fracture identification in F2; then, CGR and RHOB.



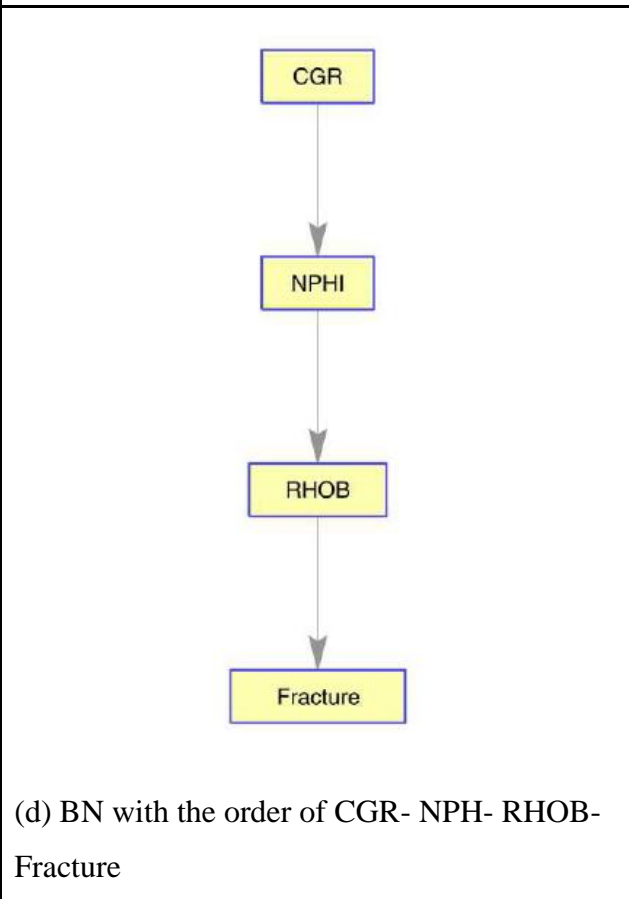
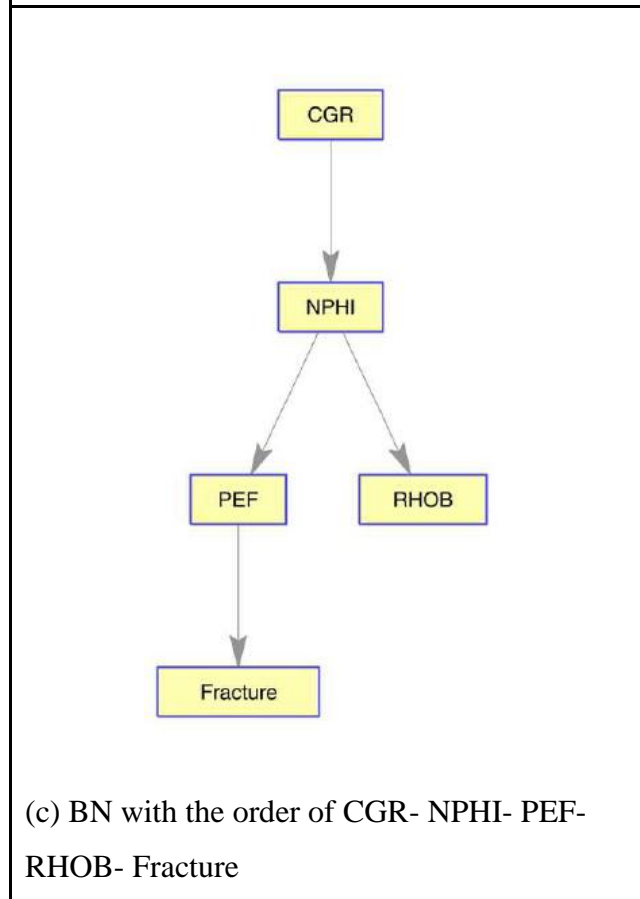
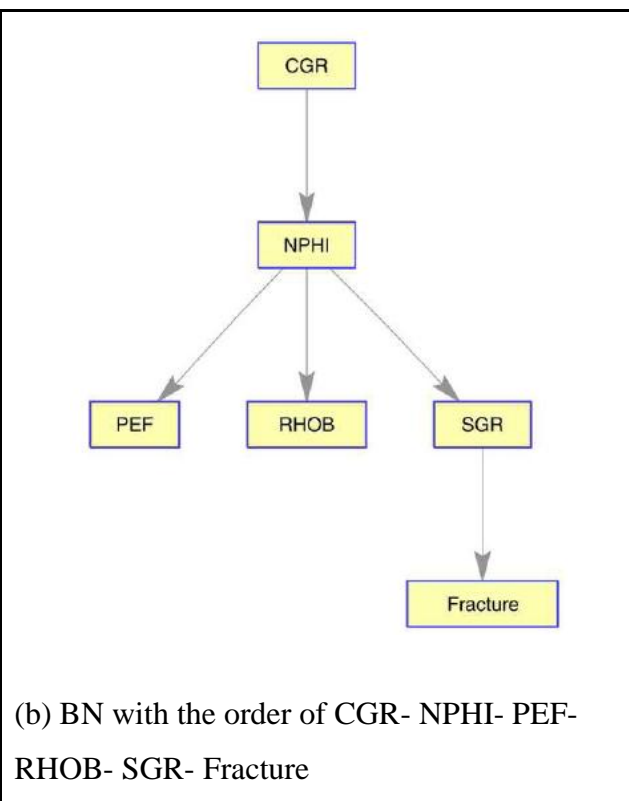
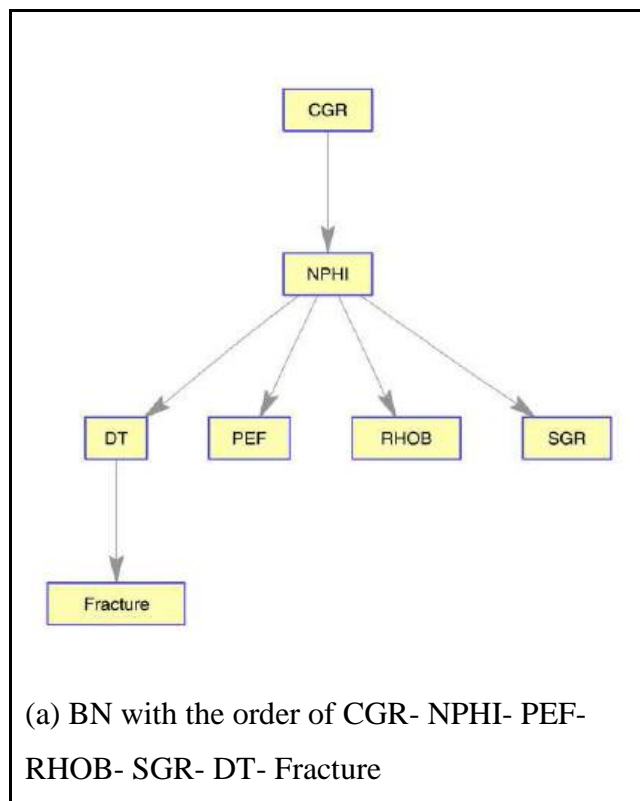


**Fig. 6.** Correlation chart and histograms in Sarvak Formation of F2.

Thereafter, Bayesian Network (Fig. 7) is constructed by K2 algorithm with the order of:

CGR, NPHI, PEF, RHOB, SGR, DT, Open Fracture

After indicating DT as the most effective feature on fractures, it is removed from the above order; then, BN is reconstructed to find out the second important feature for fracture detection. This process continued as it is shown in Fig. 7. Based on this figure, important features for fracture study are in order of: DT, SGR, PEF, RHOB, NPHI and CGR

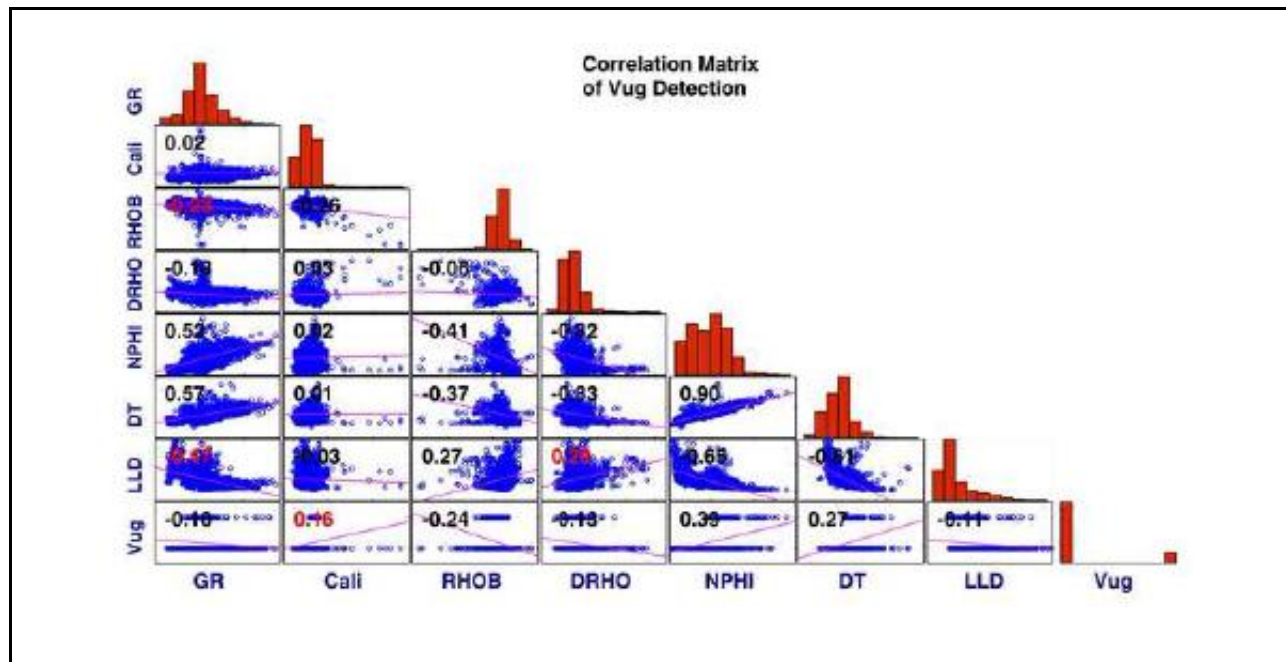


**Fig. 7. Bayesian Networks in Sarvak Formation of F2.**

Surprisingly, based on both criteria, priorities of features for fracture identification are the same, except in the places of CGR and PEF.

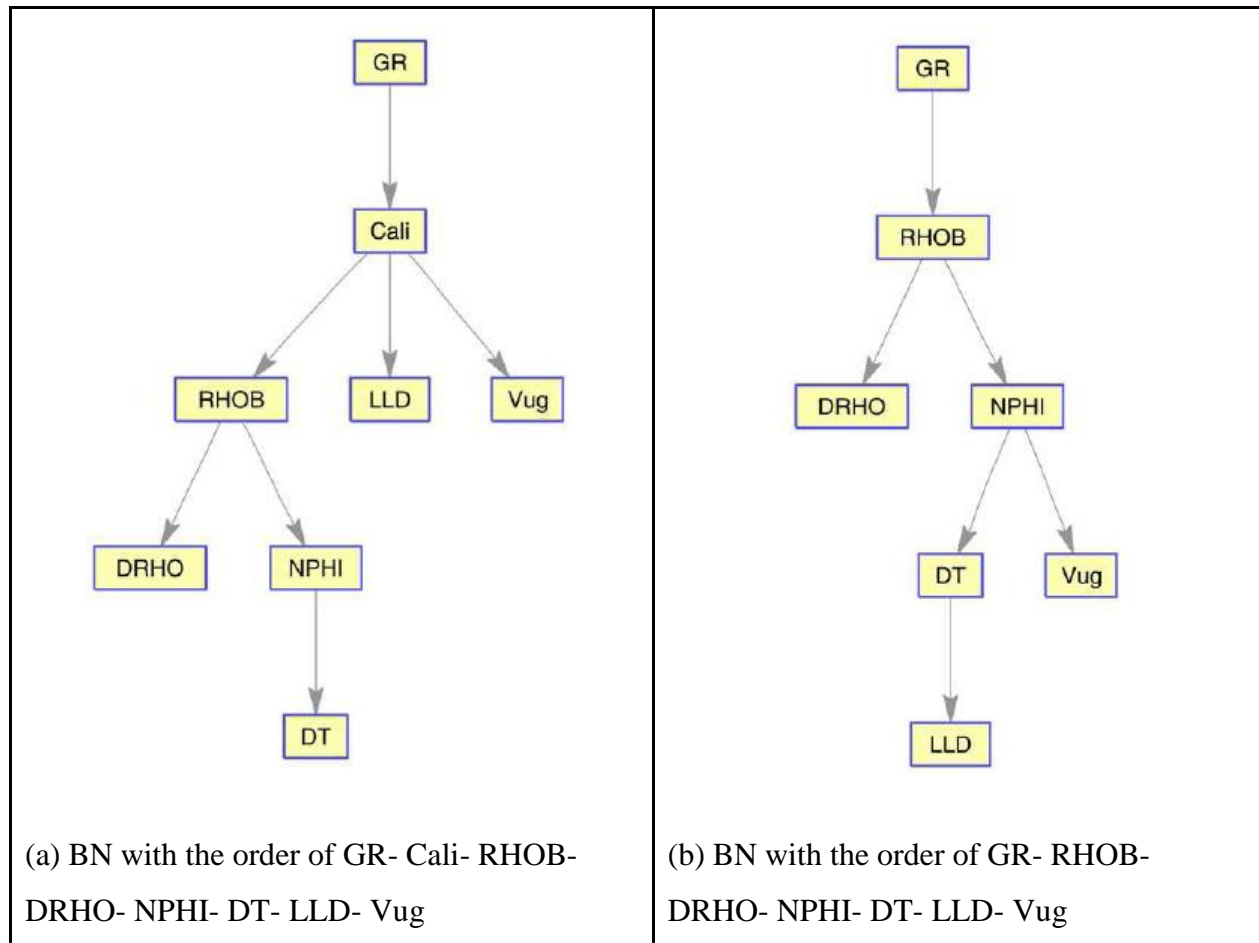
### 6.3. Causal Relationships for Vug Detection

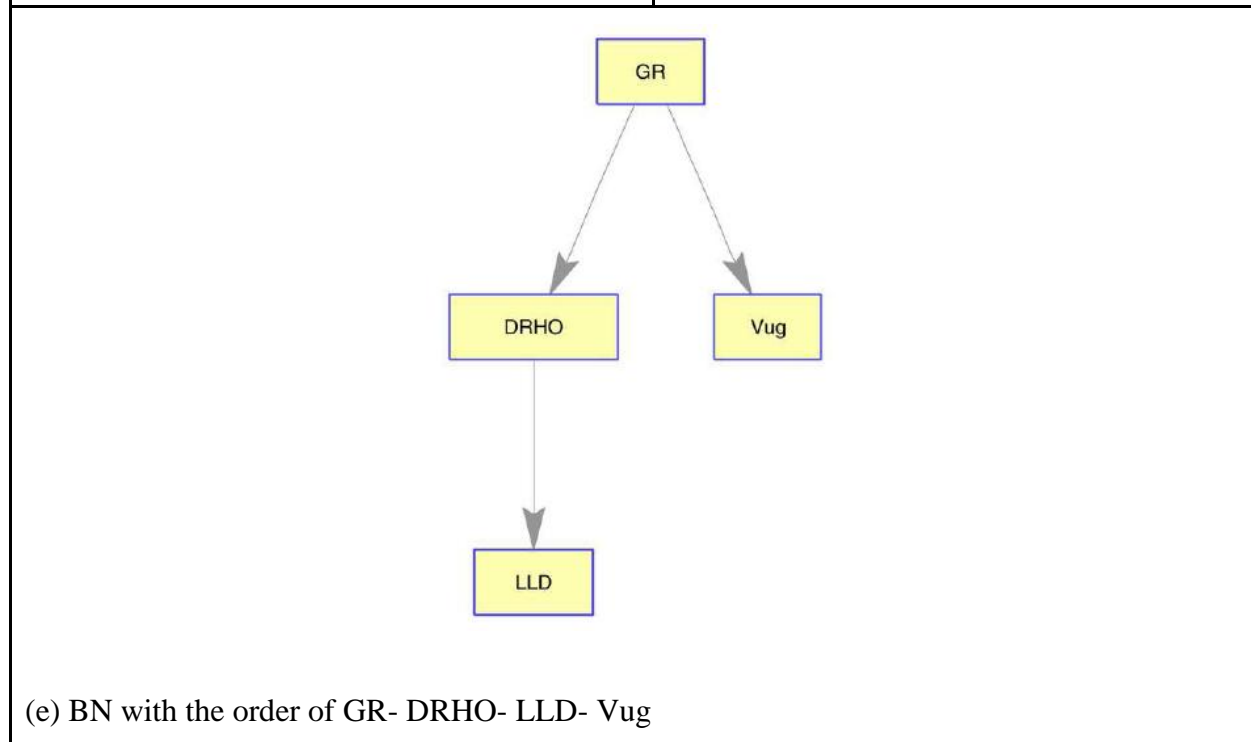
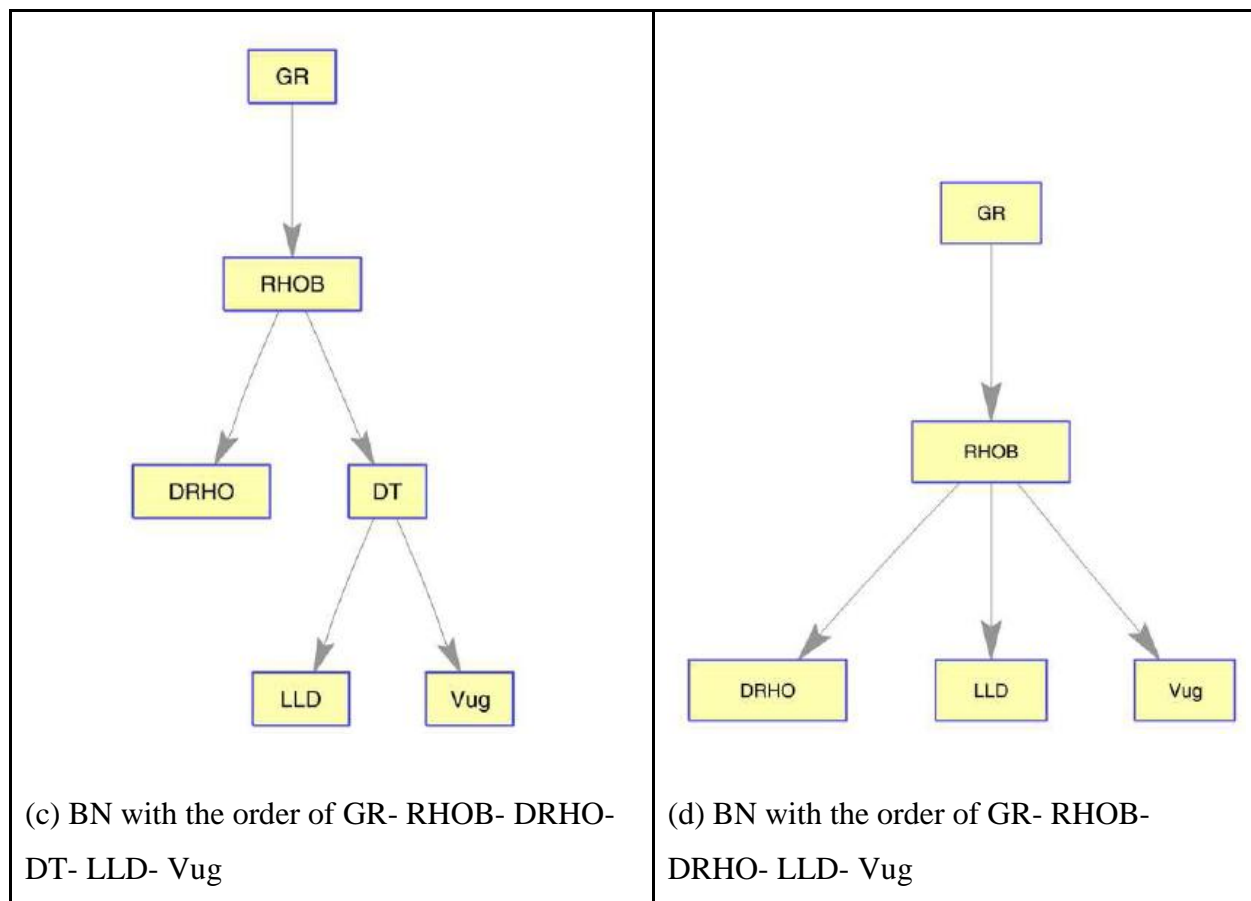
Like fractures, image logs are most reliable tools for vug detection. It is worthy to mention that vug pores are visible in cores likewise, whereas fractures could not be studied in cores due to low core recovery within fractured intervals. In addition, vug pores are not investigated as much as fractures so far (Table 4), due to their relatively low importance, comparing to fractures. By the way, for selecting appropriate features for vug detection, scatter plots of all logs, and observed vug pores are shown on Fig. 8. Then, correlation coefficients between each pair of variables are calculated and shown on each plot. Due to correlation coefficients, NPHI, DT and RHOB are the most important features for vug detection in F3.



**Fig. 8.** Correlation chart in and Sarvak Formation of F3.

Like understanding causal relationships for fracture identification, sequential procedure of constructing BN is used for vug detection too (Fig. 9). The first BN is constructed by the order of: GR- Cali- RHOB- DRHO- NPHI- DT- LLD- Vug





**Fig. 9. Bayesian Networks in Sarvak Formation of F3.**

Calliper log is the most important feature for vug detection (Fig. 9 (a)); NPHI, DT, RHOB and GR are other important features in order.

#### 6.4. Causal Relationships for Net Pay Determination

Determining productive zones is a very critical stage in static reservoir modelling. Petrophysical net pay determination is usually done by cut-off method. Some of utilized features in literature are included in Table 5.

For net pay detection, production rate, derived from production test is utilized as criteria of productivity:

(a) Productivity of 1 means that production rate is less than 1000 barrel oil per

$$\text{day } [\cong 0.000736 \frac{m^3}{s}]$$

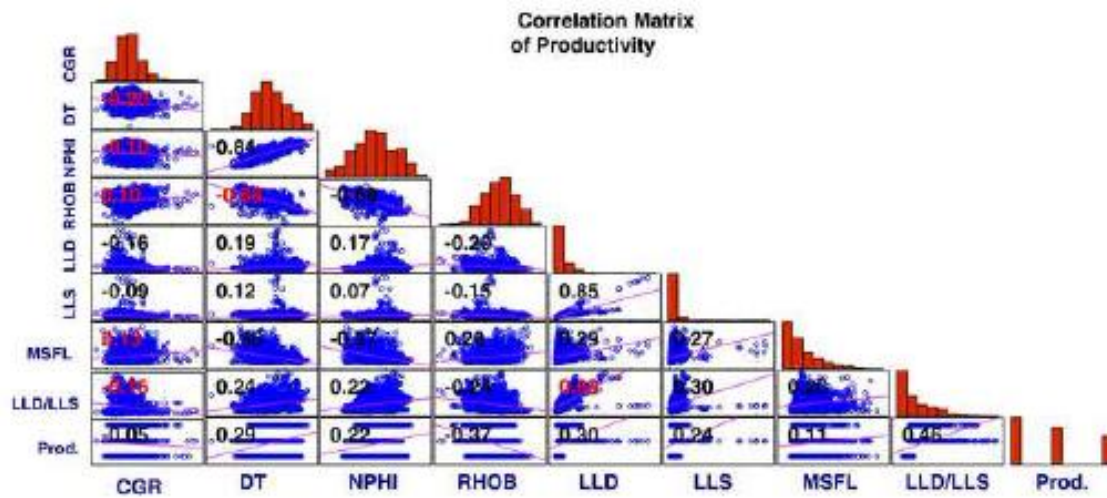
(b) Productivity of 2 means that production rate is between 1000

$$[\cong 0.000736 \frac{m^3}{s}] \text{ and } 1500 \text{ barrel daily } [\cong 0.001104 \frac{m^3}{s}]$$

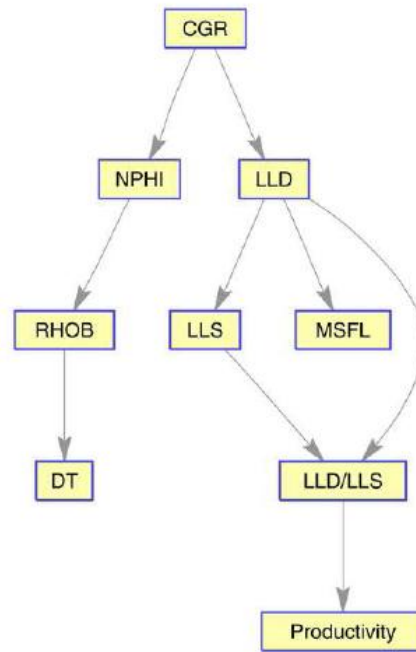
(c) Productivity of 3 means that production rate is more than 1500 barrel per day

$$[\cong 0.001104 \frac{m^3}{s}]$$

Like Fig. 5 (a) and (b), cross plots of F1 are plotted, and correlation coefficients are calculated. Due to productivity, LLD/LLS, RHOB, LLD and DT are the most effective features for modelling well test results. Based on dependency criterion (Fig. 10 (b)), LLD/LLS is the most important feature likewise. LLD and LLS are in the second stage of importance.



(a) Correlation Coefficients and histograms



(b) Produced Bayesian Network with the order of: CGR, NPHI, RHOB, DT, LLD, MSFL, LLS, LLD/LLS and Productivity

**Fig. 10.** Relationships between features in Sarvak Formation of F1 for net pay detection.

In order to satisfy the second goal of the paper, which is providing results of feature selection in order to benefit petrophysicists of, selected features for reservoir characterization are summarized in Table 6. 1<sup>st</sup> stage features are those features that have high priority due to both criteria; 2<sup>nd</sup> stage features are those effective features that do not have the same importance as 1<sup>st</sup> stage features. For fracture detection, there is another column named 3<sup>rd</sup> stage features that are not as important as 2<sup>nd</sup> stage features. It is worthy to mention that bulk density (RHOB) is the most frequent feature in this table; therefore, the most important log for reservoir characterization.



Tables 3, 4 and 5 are included in the current work in order to validate obtained results, i.e. proposed input features for reservoir study, Table 6. Comparing the current (Table 6) and previous works (Tables 3, 4 and 5) reveals that selected features (Table 6) are reasonable for porosity, permeability, fracture, vug and net pay studies; furthermore, combining BN and correlation coefficient is a successful way for feature extraction in reservoir characterisation.

## 7. Conclusion

Although correlation coefficient is a very useful and easy to use criterion to find and quantify mutual relationships between different variables, there are some pitfalls when using it. In this work, Bayesian Network is introduced as a complementary means (not an alternative) to find out dependency relations; therefore, finding causal relationships and feature selection in reservoir characterization. The results showed that RHOB, DT and NPHI are the most important features for porosity estimation; whereas Porosity and RHOB are the most effective variables on estimating permeability. DT and SGR are introduced as very effective features for fracture identification, and for vug detection, NPHI, DT, RHOB and Calliper are recommended. Finally, resistivity logs of LLD/LLS and LLD have been proved to be the most valuable features for net pay detection.

## Acknowledgment

The authors wish to acknowledge Exploration Directorate of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), for permission to publish scientific results. Also, special thanks to Mr. Meisam Akbari Zare, a professional mountain climber for sharing his nice photo of Damavand Mountain with us. **Finally, many thanks to Dr. Abdullah M. Al-Amri and Dr. Jassim M. Thabit,**

editor-in-chief and reviewer of Arabian Journal of Geosciences for their comments and review on submitted manuscript.

## References

- Abdollahzadeh, A. et al., 2011. Estimation of Distribution Algorithms Applied to History Matching, SPE Reservoir Simulation Symposium. Society of Petroleum Engineers, The Woodlands, Texas, USA.
- Al-Ameri, T.K., Al-Khafaji, A.J. and Zumberge, J., 2009. Petroleum system analysis of the Mishrif reservoir in the Ratawi, Zubair, North and South Rumaila oil fields, southern Iraq. *GeoArabia*, 14(4): 91-108.
- Al-yami, A.S. and Schubert, J., 2012. Underbalanced Drilling Expert System Development, SPE Western Regional Meeting. Society of Petroleum Engineers, Bakersfield, California, USA.
- Al-Yami, A.S., Schubert, J., Medina-Cetina, Z. and Yu, O.-Y., 2010. Drilling Expert System for the Optimal Design and Execution of Successful Cementing Practices, IADC/SPE Asia Pacific Drilling Technology Conference and Exhibition. 2010, IADC/SPE Asia Pacific Drilling Technology Conference and Exhibition, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
- Al-yami, A.S., Schubert, J.J. and Beck, F.E., 2011. Expert System for the Optimal Design and Execution of Successful Completion Practices Using Artificial Bayesian Intelligence, Brasil Offshore. Society of Petroleum Engineers, MacaÃ©, Brazil.
- Asgari-Nezhad, Y., Sherkati, S. and Tokhmechi, B., 2012. Differentiation between vugular porosity and other kinds of porosities using signal processing operators. *Exploration & Production Oil & Gas*, 96: 91-98.
- Asgarinezhad, Y., Tokhmechi, B., Roohani, A.K., Sherkati, S. and Jamali, A., 2011. Ranking of well logs in identification of vugs, 29rd Symposium on Geosciences. Geological survey of Iran, Tehran.
- Bleiholder, J. and Naumann, F., 2008. Data Fusion. *ACM Computing Surveys*, 41(1): 1-41.
- Bobko, P., 2001. A Review of the Correlation Coefficient and Its Properties, *Correlation and Regression*. SAGE.
- Cooper, G.F. and Herskovits, E., 1992. A Bayesian method for the induction of probabilistic networks from data. *Machine Learning*, 9(4): 309-347.
- Doguc, O. and Ramirez-Marquez, J.E., 2009. A generic method for estimating system reliability using Bayesian networks. *Reliability Engineering & System Safety*, 94(2): 542-550.
- Duda, R.O., Hart, P.E. and Stork, D.G., 2000. *Pattern Classification*. Wiley India Pvt. Ltd.
- Fethi, E., Nabil, M., Salim El-Djoudi, M. and Peter Andrew, H., 2010. How to integrate Wireline Formation Tester, Logs, Core and Well Test Data to get Hydraulic Flow Unit

- Permeability, SPE Production and Operations Conference and Exhibition. Society of Petroleum Engineers, Tunis, Tunisia.
- Ghoraishy, S.M., Liang, J.T., Green, D.W. and Liang, H.C., 2008. Application of Bayesian networks for predicting the performance of gel-treated wells in the arbuckle formation, Kansas. 16th SPE/DOE Improved Oil Recovery Symposium 2008 - "IOR: Now More Than Ever.", Tulsa, OK, pp. 702-708.
- Helle, H.B., Bhatt, A. and Ursin, B., 2001. Porosity and permeability prediction from wireline logs using artificial neural networks: a North Sea case study. *Geophysical Prospecting*, 49(4): 431-444.
- Hermann, R. et al., 2011. Water Production Surveillance Workflow using Neural Network and Bayesian Network Technology: A Case Study of Bongkot North Field, Thailand, International Petroleum Technology Conference. International Petroleum Technology Conference, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Ibrahim Sami, N. and Adel, M., 2010. Permeability Prediction from Wireline Well Logs Using Fuzzy Logic and Discriminant Analysis, SPE Asia Pacific Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition. Society of Petroleum Engineers, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
- Ja'Fari, A., Kadkhodaie-Ilkhchi, A., Sharghi, Y. and Ghanavati, K., 2012. Fracture density estimation from petrophysical log data using the adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system. *Journal of Geophysics and Engineering*, 9(1): 105-114.
- Jalali Lichaei, M. and Nabi Bidhendi, M., 2006. Comparison between Multiple Linear Regression and Artificial Neural Networks for Porosity and Permeability Estimation. *Geosciences Scientific Quarterly Journal*, 61: 140-149.
- Jensen, J.L. and Menke, J.Y., 2006. Some Statistical Issues in Selecting Porosity Cutoffs for Estimating Net Pay. *PetroPhysics*, 47(4): 315–320.
- Kannan, P., 2006. Bayesian Networks: Application in safety instrumentation and risk reduction. *Hydrocarbon Asia*, 16(6).
- Khaz'ali, A.R., Farahani, F.J. and Ahmadabadi, M.N., 2011. Bayesian network - A new probabilistic method for petroleum reservoir production prediction and history matching. *Petroleum Science and Technology*, 29(7): 745-757.
- Khor, K.C., Ting, C.Y. and Amnuaisuk, S.P., 2009. From feature selection to building of Bayesian classifiers: A network intrusion detection perspective. *American Journal of Applied Sciences*, 6(11): 1949-1960.
- Lauría, E., 2008. An Information-Geometric Approach to Learning Bayesian Network Topologies from Data. In: D. Holmes and L. Jain (Editors), *Innovations in Bayesian Networks. Studies in Computational Intelligence*. Springer Berlin / Heidelberg, pp. 187-217.
- Lee Rodgers, J. and Nicewander, W.A., 1988. Thirteen ways to look at the correlation coefficient. *The American Statistician*, 42(1): 59-66.
- Mahbaz, S., Sardar, H., Namjouyan, M. and Mirzaahmadian, Y., 2011. Optimization of reservoir cut-off parameters: a case study in SW Iran. *Petroleum Geoscience*, 17(4): 355-363.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 Mansure, A.J., Whitlow, G.L., Corser, G.P., Harmse, J. and Wallace, R.D., 1999. A Probabilistic
- 5 Reasoning Tool for Circulation Monitoring Based on Flow Measurements, SPE Annual
- 6 Technical Conference and Exhibition. Society of Petroleum Engineers, Houston, Texas.
- 7
- 8 Martinelli, G., Eidsvik, J., Hauge, R. and F rland, M.D., 2011. Bayesian networks for prospect
- 9 analysis in the North Sea. AAPG Bulletin, 95(8): 1423-1442.
- 10
- 11 Martinelli, G., Eidsvik, J., Sinding-Larsen, R., Rekstad, S. and Mukerji, T., 2013. Building
- 12 Bayesian networks from basin-modelling scenarios for improved geological decision
- 13 making. Petroleum Geoscience, 19(3): 289-304.
- 14
- 15 Masoudi, P., Hourfar, F. and Mazaheri Torei, A., 2011a. An Improvement in Estimating
- 16 Petrophysical Parameters by Utilizing Normalizing Mapping on Inputs of Artificial
- 17 Neural Networks, 8th Iranian Student Mining Engineering Conference, Tehran, Iran, pp.
- 18 1-8.
- 19
- 20
- 21 Masoudi, P., Tokhmechi, B., Ansari Jafari, M., Zamanzadeh, S.M. and Sherkati, S., 2012a.
- 22 Application of Bayesian in determining productive zones by well log data in oil wells.
- 23 Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering, 94–95(0): 47-54.
- 24
- 25 Masoudi, P., Tokhmechi, B., Bashari, A. and Jafari, M.A., 2012b. Identifying productive zones
- 26 of the Sarvak formation by integrating outputs of different classification methods. Journal
- 27 of Geophysics and Engineering, 9(3): 282-290.
- 28
- 29 Masoudi, P., Tokhmechi, B., Jafari, M.A. and Moshiri, B., 2012c. Application of Fuzzy
- 30 Classifier Fusion in Determining Productive Zones in Oil Wells. Energy Exploration and
- 31 Exploitation, 30(3): 403-415.
- 32
- 33 Masoudi, P., Tokhmechi, B., Zahedi, A. and Jafari, M.A., 2011b. Developing a Method for
- 34 Identification of Net Zones Using Log Data and Diffusivity Equation. Journal of Mining
- 35 and Environment, 2(1): 53-60.
- 36
- 37 Mehri, M., 2010. Optimization of Permeability Estimation by Using Hydraulic Flow Units in
- 38 Hydrocarbon Reservoirs, University of Tehran, 160 pp.
- 39
- 40 Niedermayer, D., 2008. An introduction to Bayesian networks and their contemporary
- 41 applications. In: D.E. Holmes and L.C. Jain (Editors), Innovations in Bayesian Networks,
- 42 Theory and Applications. Studies in computational intelligence. Springer, Berlin, pp.
- 43 117-130.
- 44
- 45 Olofsson, P., 2011. Probability, statistics, and stochastic processes. Wiley-Interscience.
- 46
- 47 OxfordDictionaries, 2010. "dependence". Oxford Dictionaries. April 2010. Oxford University
- 48 Press.
- 49
- 50 Pearl, J., 1986. Fusion, propagation, and structuring in belief networks. Artificial Intelligence,
- 51 29(3): 241-288.
- 52
- 53 Rajabi, M., Sherkati, S., Bohloli, B. and Tingay, M., 2010. Subsurface fracture analysis and
- 54 determination of in-situ stress direction using FMI logs: An example from the Santonian
- 55 carbonates (Ilam Formation) in the Abadan Plain, Iran. Tectonophysics, 492(1–4): 192-
- 56 200.
- 57
- 58
- 59
- 60
- 61
- 62
- 63
- 64
- 65

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4 Rajaieyamchee, M.A. and Bratvold, R.B., 2009. Real time decision support in drilling operations
- 5 using Bayesian Decision Networks. SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition
- 6 2009, ATCE 2009, New Orleans, LA, pp. 1517-1533.
- 7
- 8 Rasheva, S. and Bratvold, R.B., 2011. A new and improved approach for geological dependency
- 9 evaluation for multiple-prospect exploration. SPE Annual Technical Conference and
- 10 Exhibition 2011, ATCE 2011, Denver, CO, pp. 3422-3431.
- 11
- 12 Russo, F. and Ramponi, G., 1994. Fuzzy methods for multisensor data fusion. Instrumentation
- 13 and Measurement, IEEE Transactions on 43(2): 288-294.
- 14
- 15 Saemi, M., Ahmadi, M. and Varjani, A.Y., 2007. Design of neural networks using genetic
- 16 algorithm for the permeability estimation of the reservoir. Journal of Petroleum Science
- 17 and Engineering, 59(1-2): 97-105.
- 18
- 19 Shahvar, M.B., Kharrat, R. and Mahdavi, R., 2009. Incorporating Fuzzy Logic and Artificial
- 20 Neural Networks for Building a Hydraulic Unit-Based Model for Permeability Prediction
- 21 of a Heterogeneous Carbonate Reservoir, International Petroleum Technology
- 22 Conference, Doha, Qatar.
- 23
- 24 Sherkati, S. and Letouzey, J., 2004. Variation of structural style and basin evolution in the
- 25 central Zagros (Izeh zone and Dezful Embayment), Iran. Marine and Petroleum Geology,
- 26 21(5): 535-554.
- 27
- 28 Timothy, O.S., Dennis, B., Praveer, K. and Rohit, T., 2008. Mangala Field Permeability
- 29 Measurements: Comparison of Core, Wireline, and Well Test Data, SPE Indian Oil and
- 30 Gas Technical Conference and Exhibition. Society of Petroleum Engineers, Mumbai,
- 31 India.
- 32
- 33 Tokhmchi, B., Memarian, H. and Rezaee, M.R., 2010. Estimation of the fracture density in
- 34 fractured zones using petrophysical logs. Journal of Petroleum Science and Engineering,
- 35 72(1-2): 206-213.
- 36
- 37 Tokhmechi, B., Memarian, H., Rasouli, V., Noubari, H.A. and Moshiri, B., 2009. Fracture
- 38 detection from water saturation log data using a Fourier-wavelet approach. Journal of
- 39 Petroleum Science and Engineering, 69(1-2): 129-138.
- 40
- 41 Van Wees, J.D. et al., 2008. A Bayesian belief network approach for assessing the impact of
- 42 exploration prospect interdependency: An application to predict gas discoveries in the
- 43 Netherlands. AAPG Bulletin, 92(10): 1315-1336.
- 44
- 45 Worthington, P.F., 2010. Net Pay-What Is It? What Does It Do? How Do We Quantify It? How
- 46 Do We Use It? SPE Reservoir Evaluation & Engineering, 13(5): pp. 812-822.
- 47
- 48 Zerafat, M.M., ayatollahi, s., Mehranbod, N. and Barzegari, D., 2011. Bayesian Network
- 49 Analysis as a Tool for Efficient EOR Screening, SPE Enhanced Oil Recovery
- 50 Conference. Society of Petroleum Engineers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 51
- 52 Zuo, Y. and Kita, E., 2012. Stock price forecast using Bayesian network. Expert Systems with
- 53 Applications, 39(8): 6729-6737.
- 54
- 55
- 56
- 57
- 58
- 59
- 60
- 61
- 62
- 63
- 64
- 65

Figure1  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

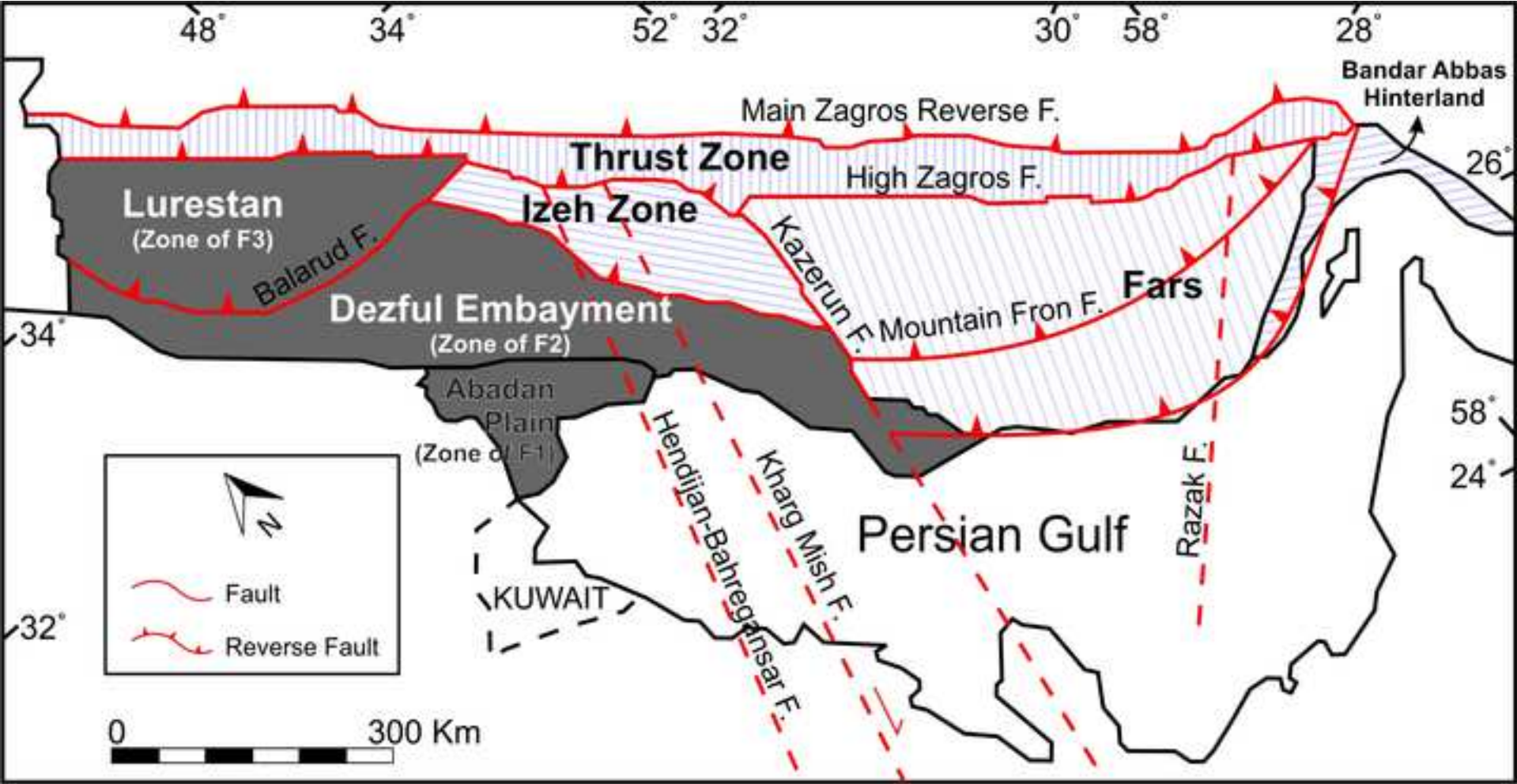


Figure2

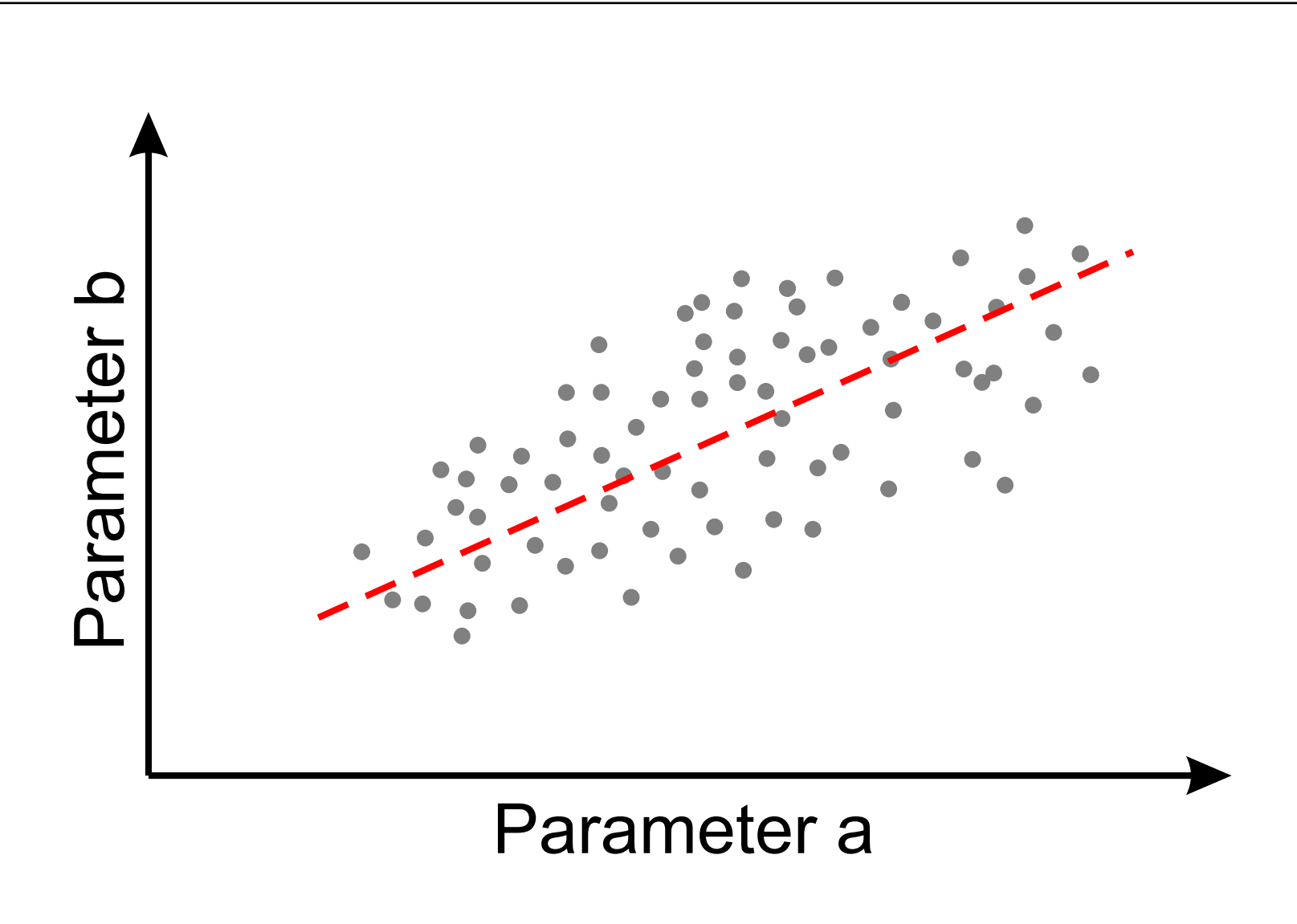




Figure3

[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

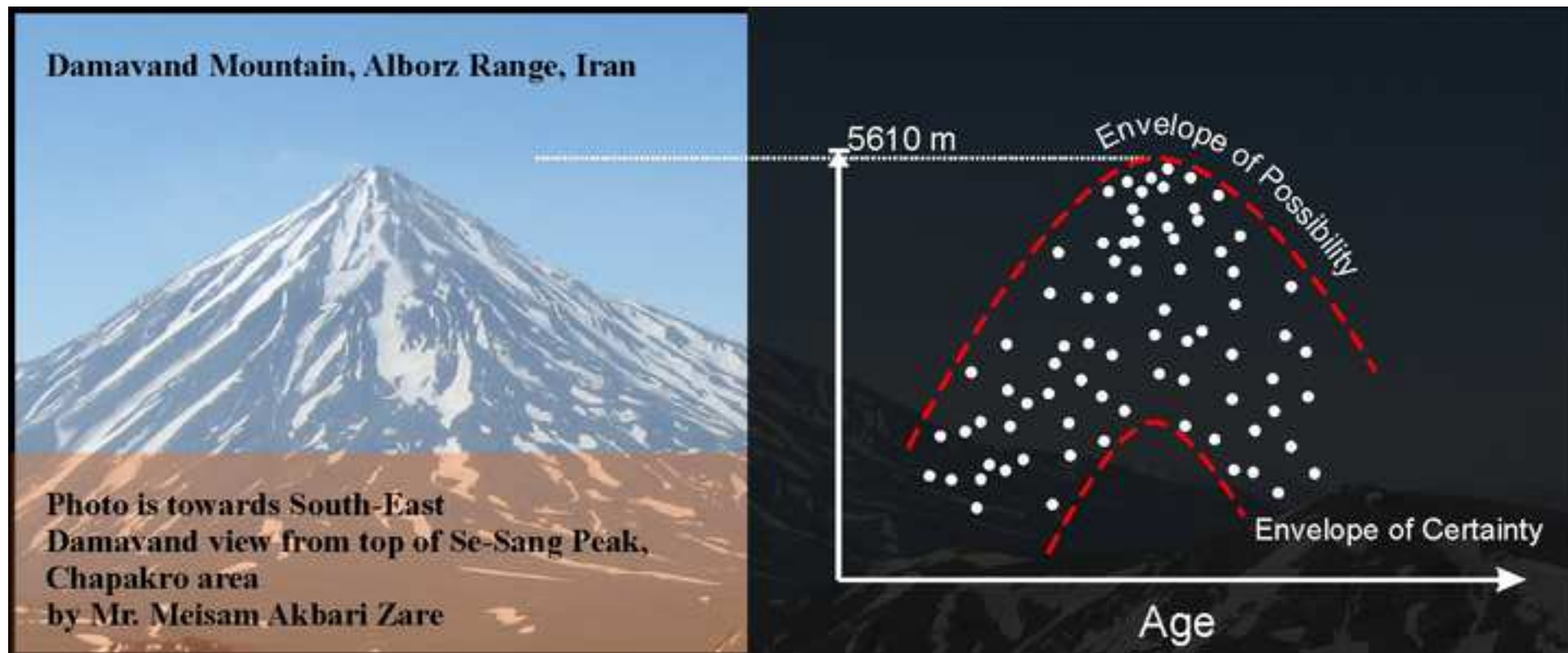




Figure4

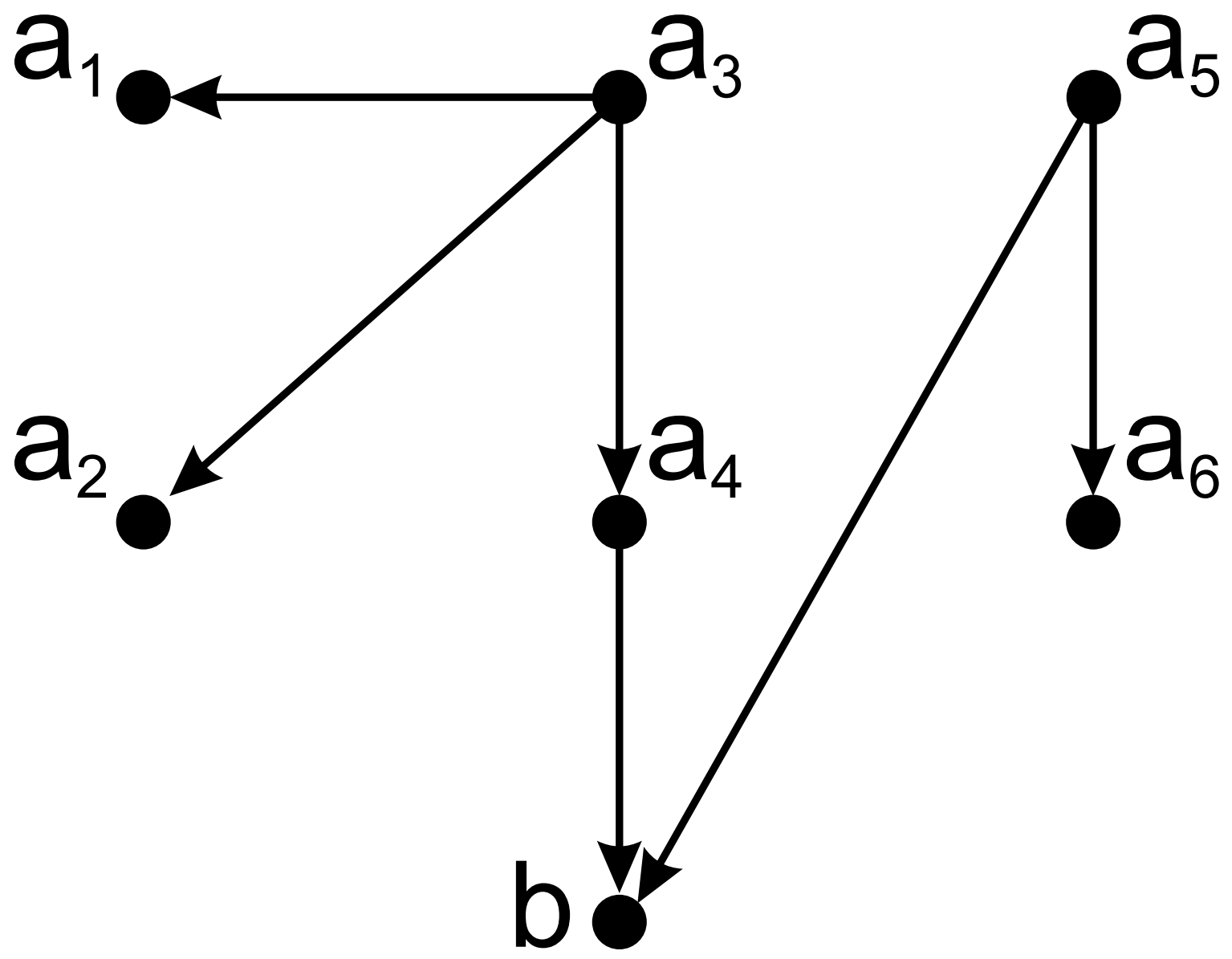


Figure5a  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

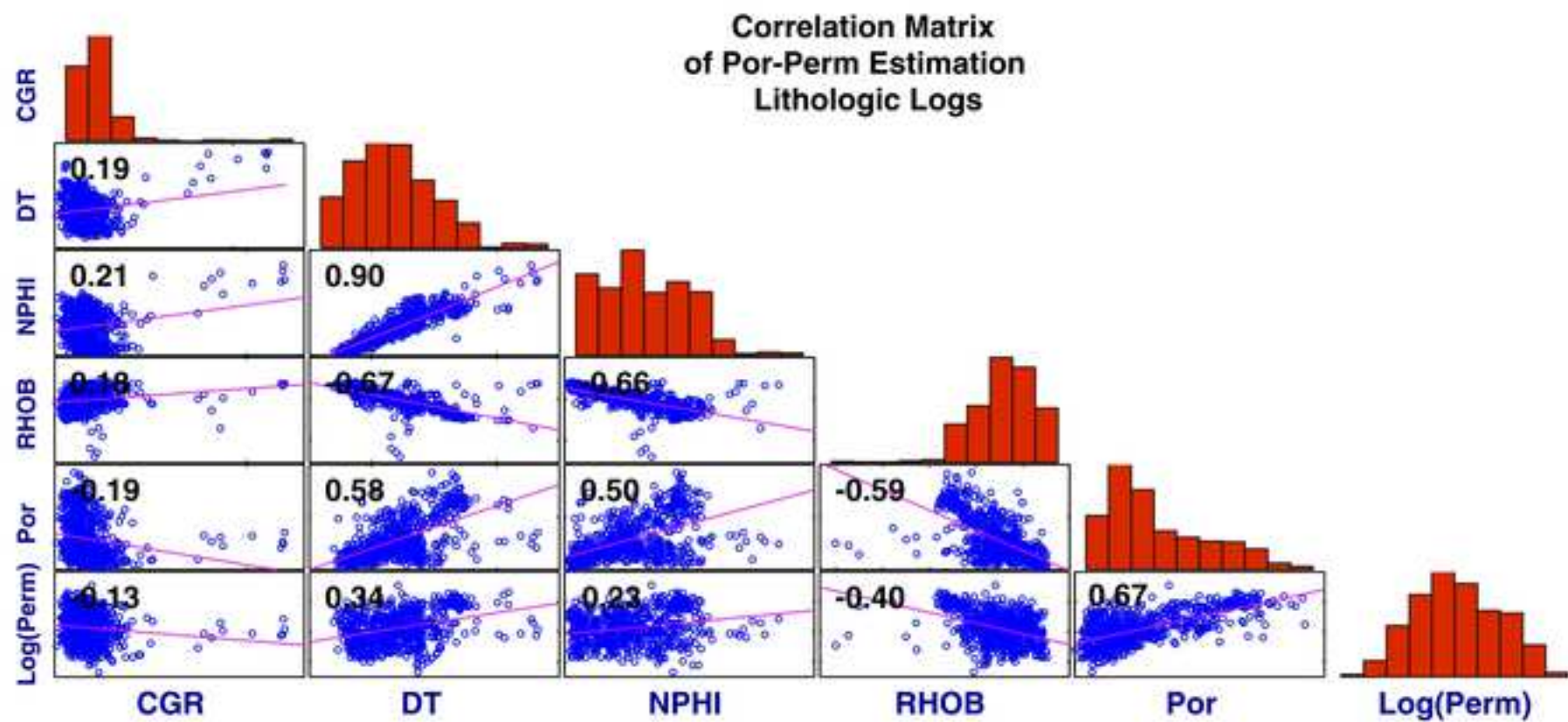


Figure5b  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

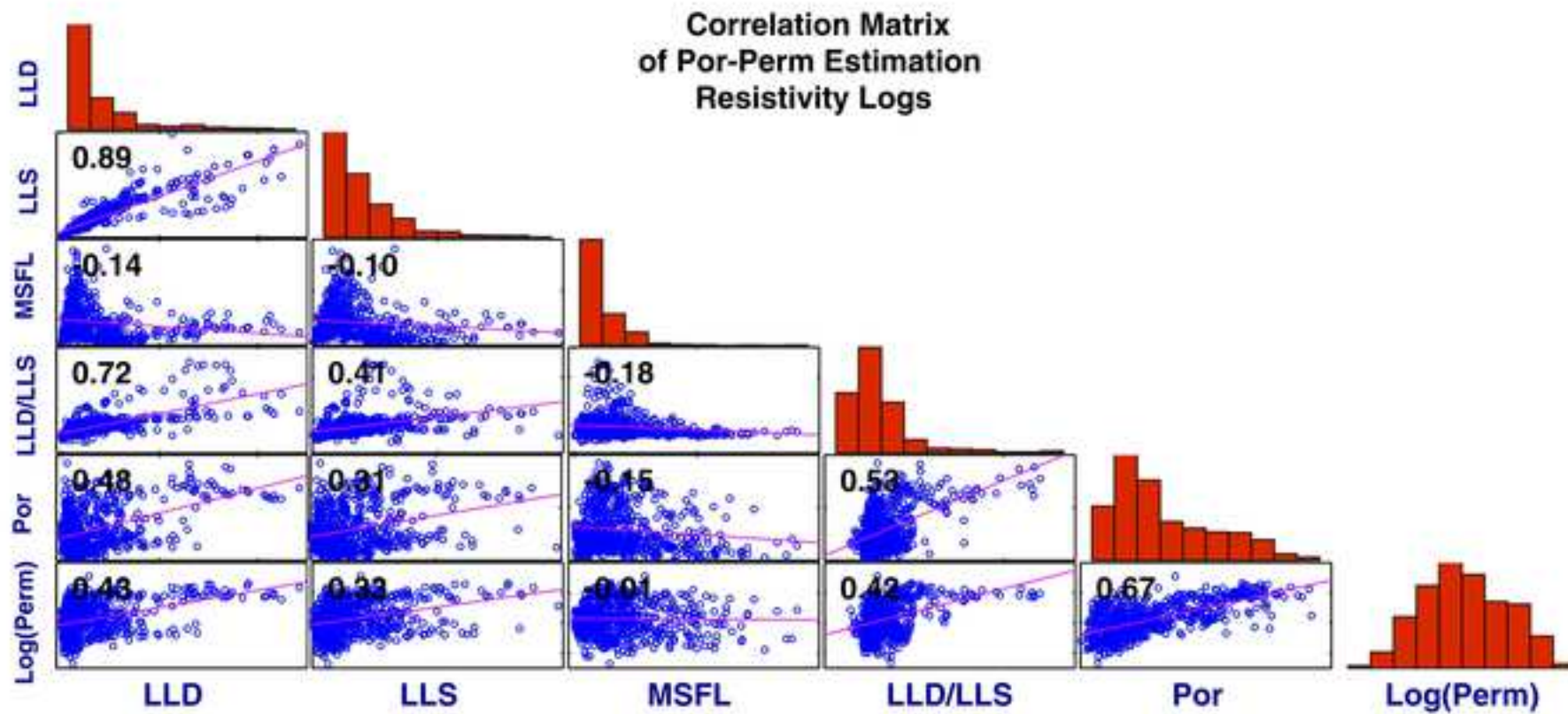


Figure5c  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

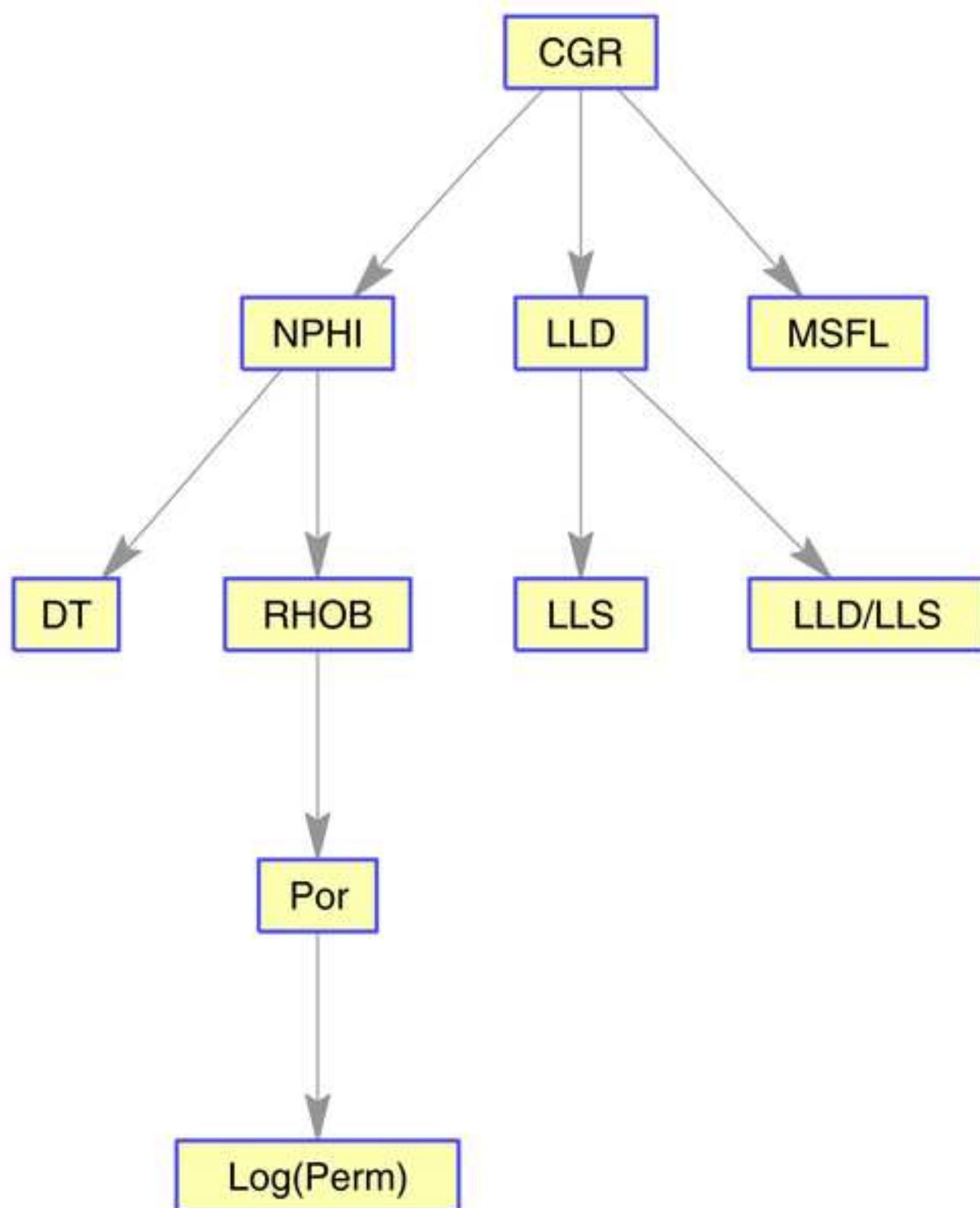


Figure6  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

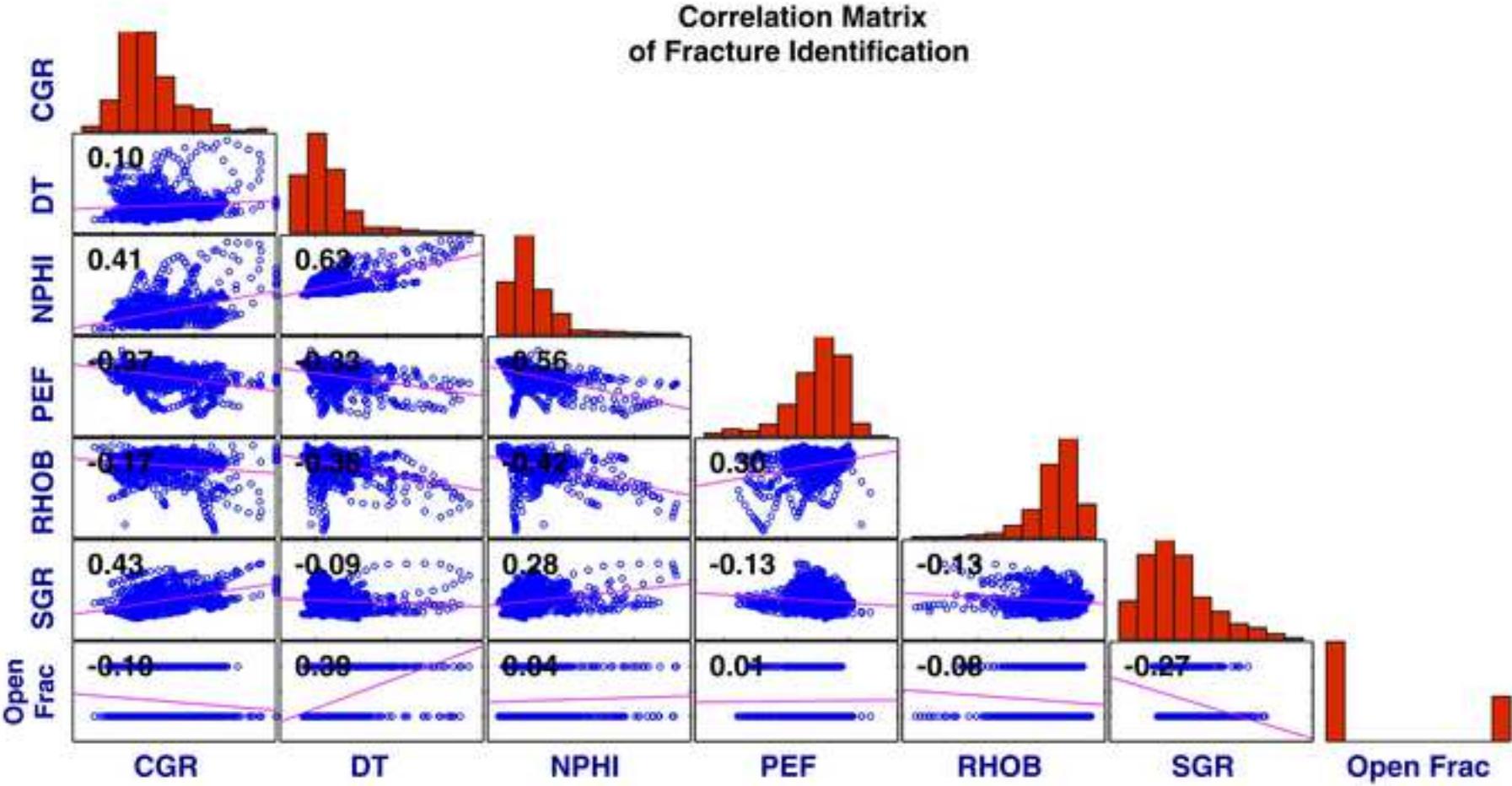


Figure7a  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

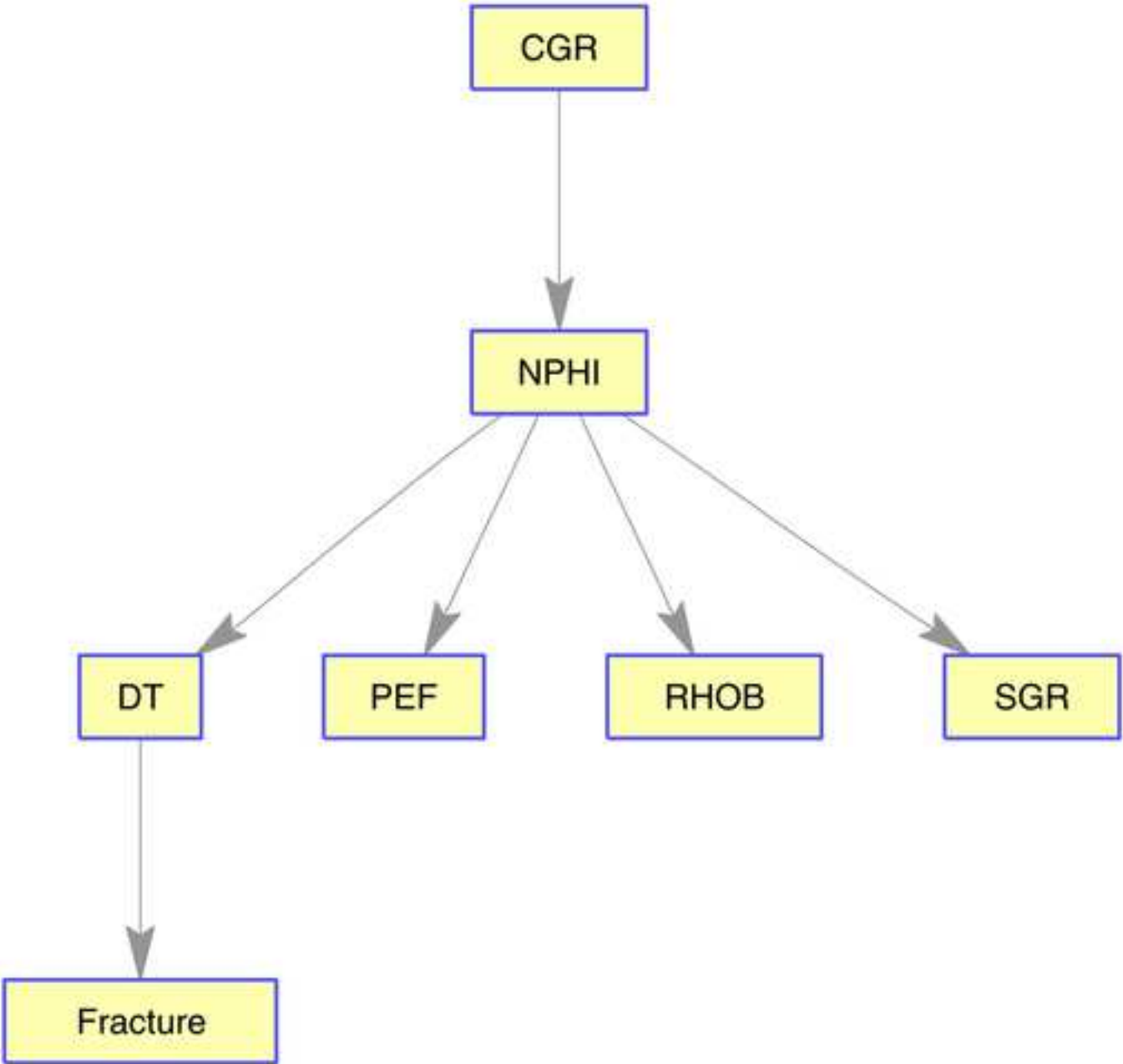


Figure7b  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

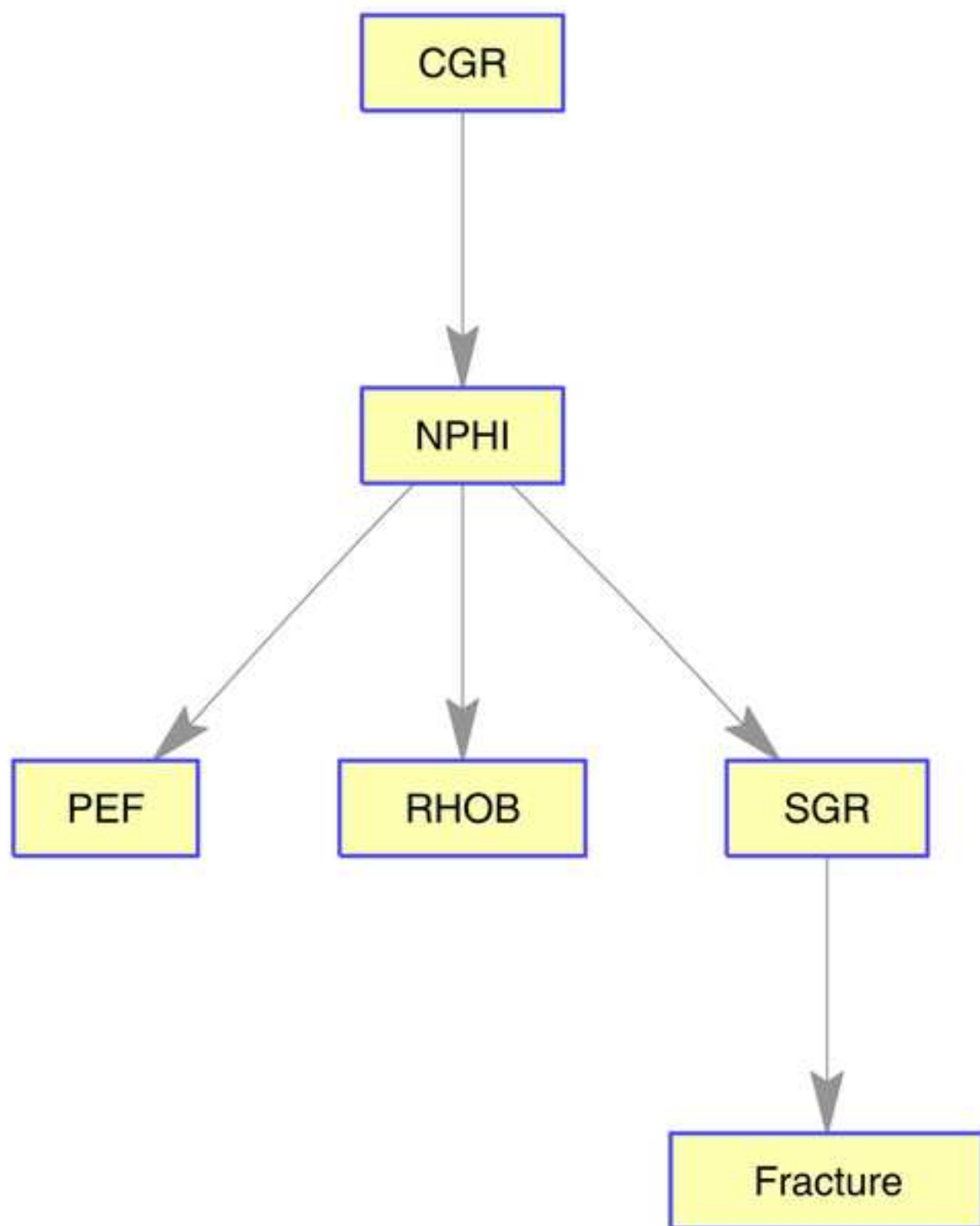




Figure7c  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

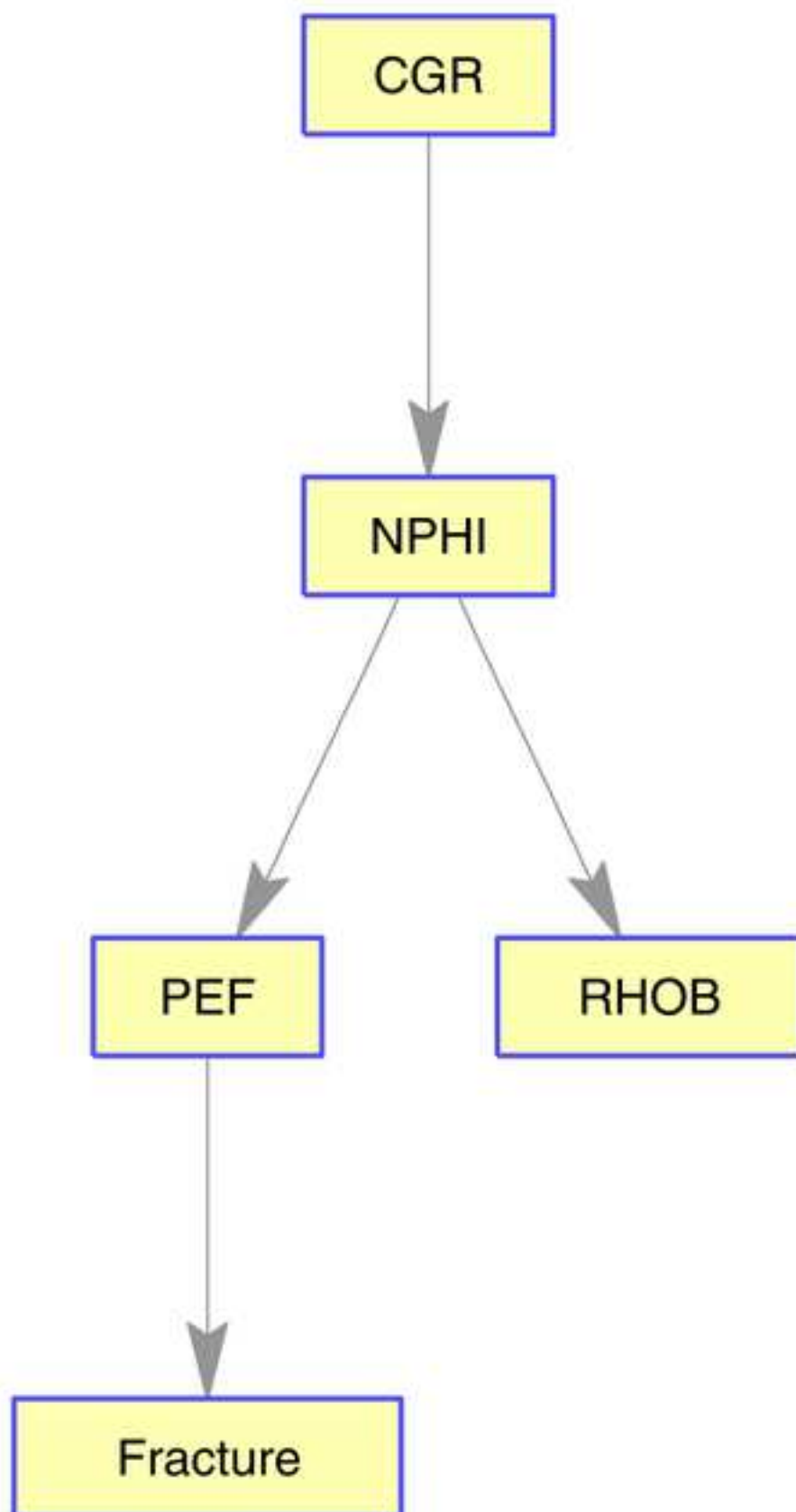




Figure7d  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

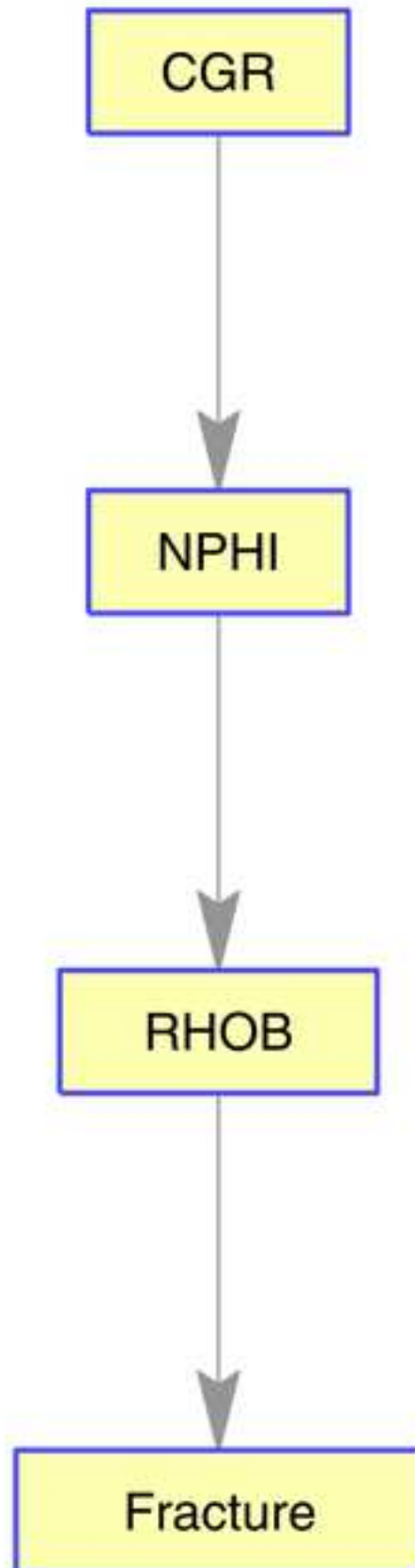


Figure8  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

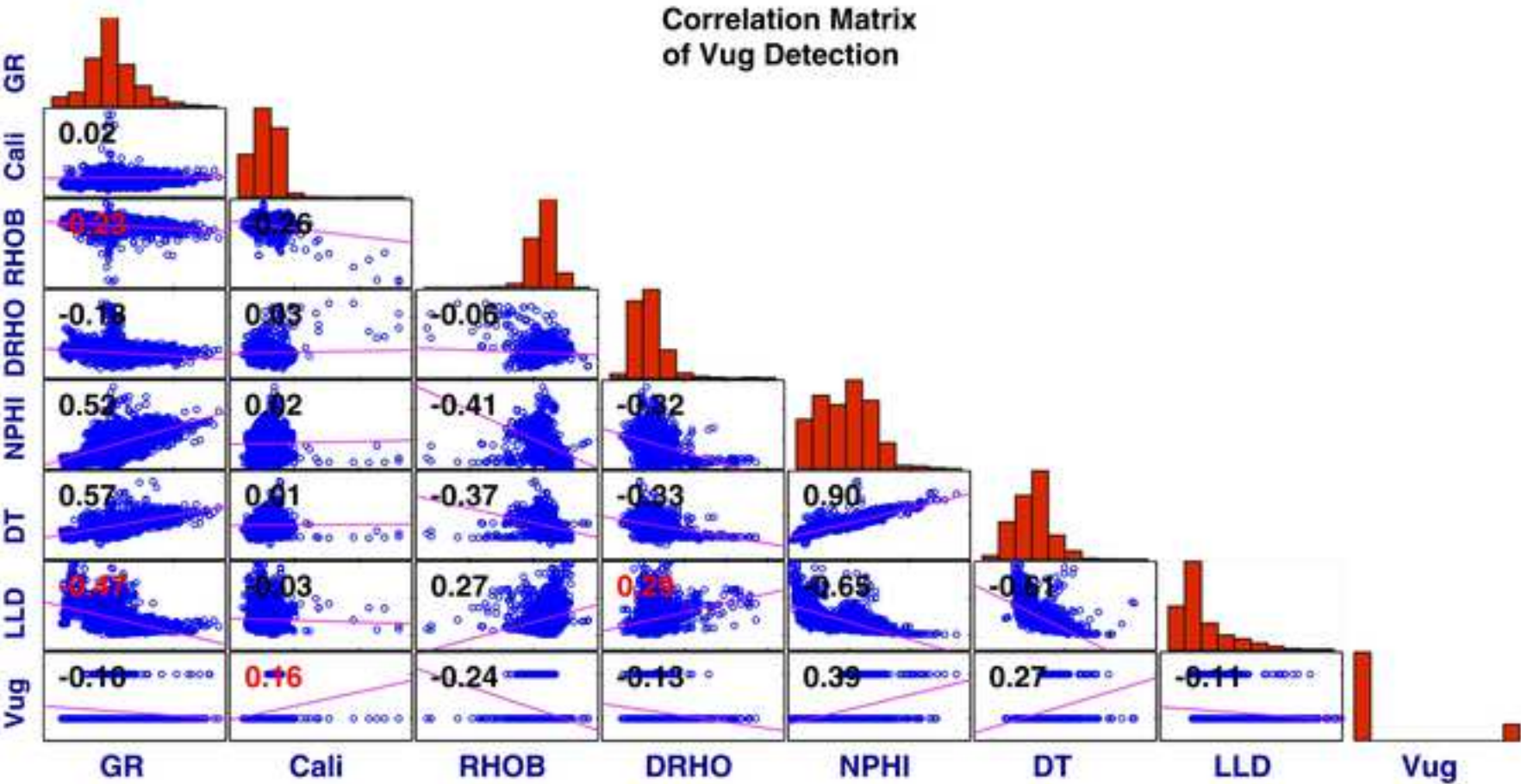


Figure9a  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

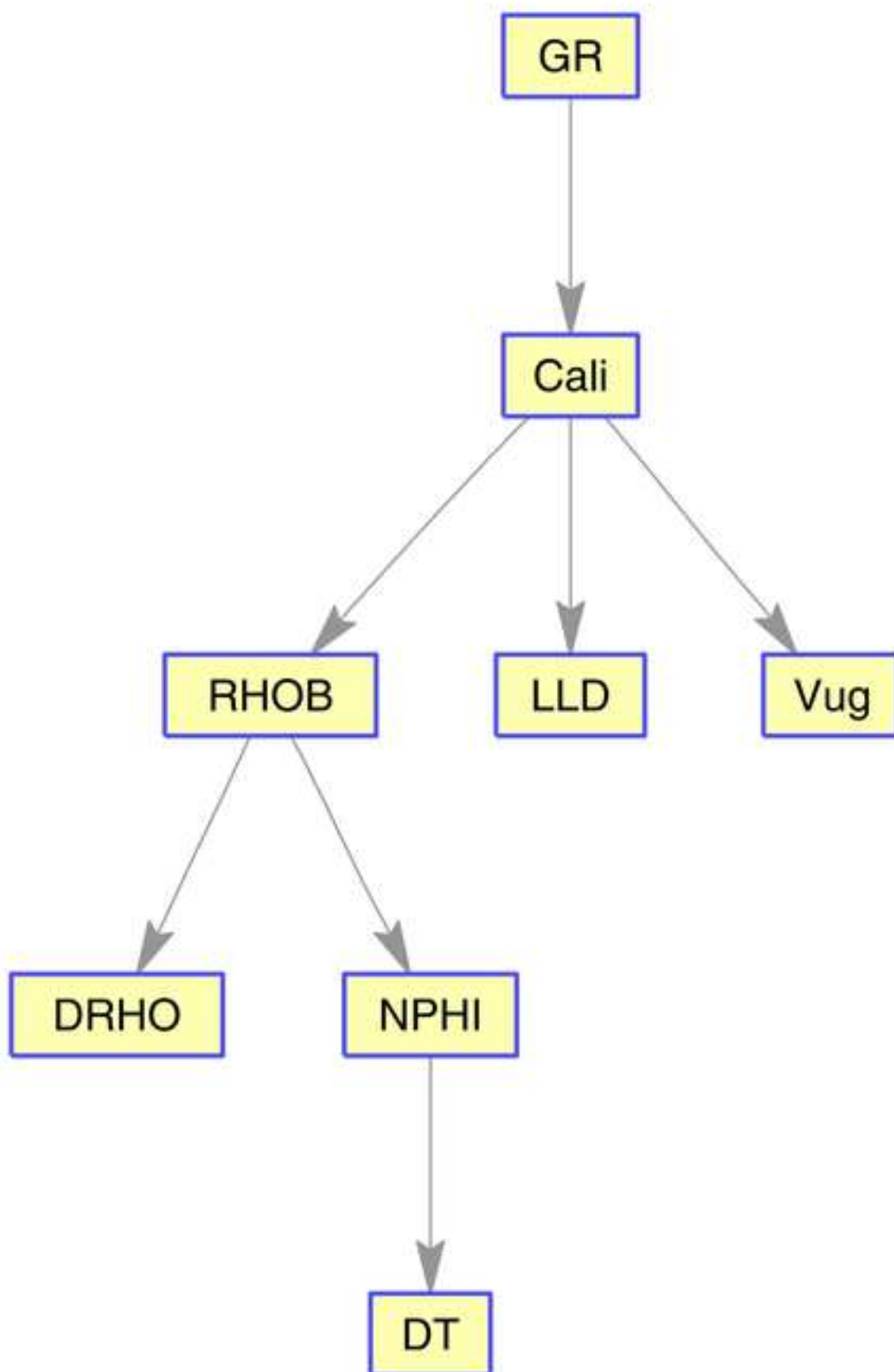


Figure9b  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

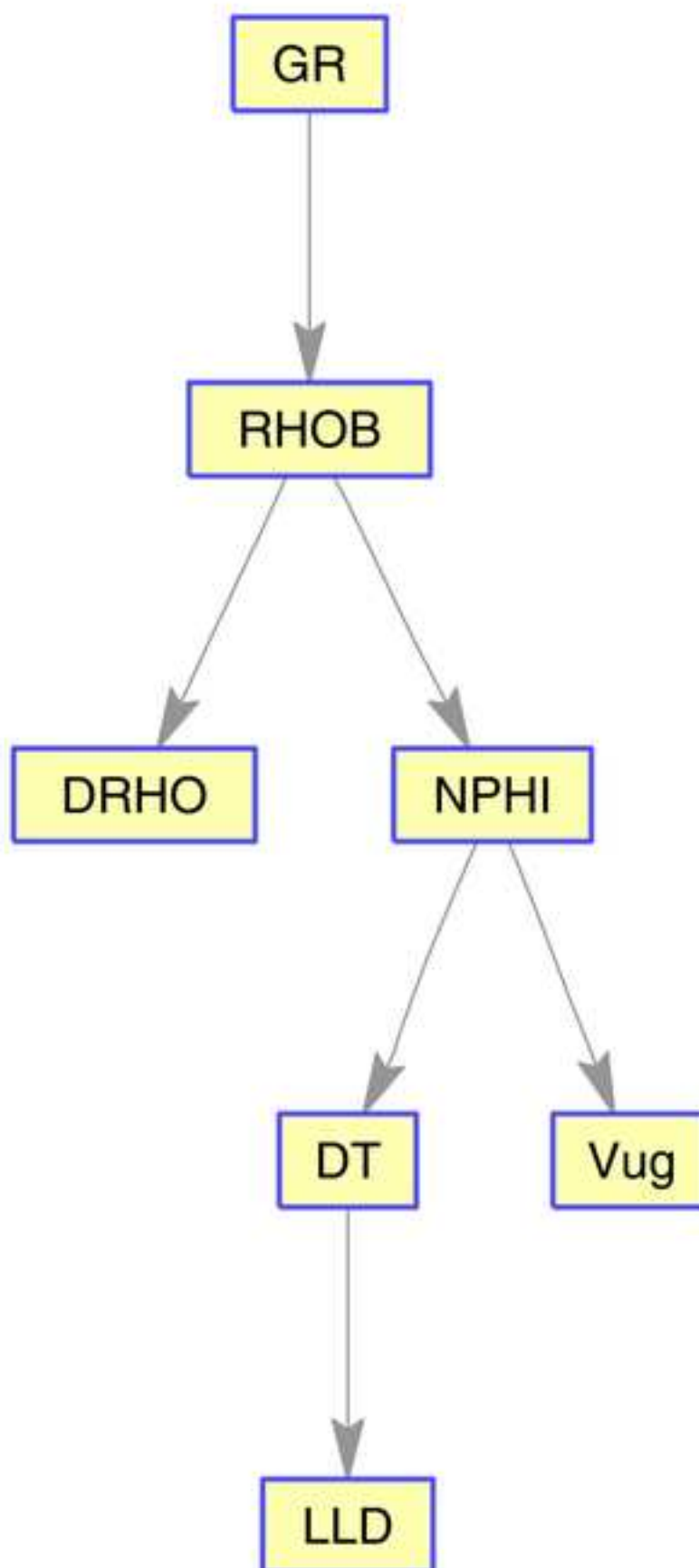


Figure9c  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

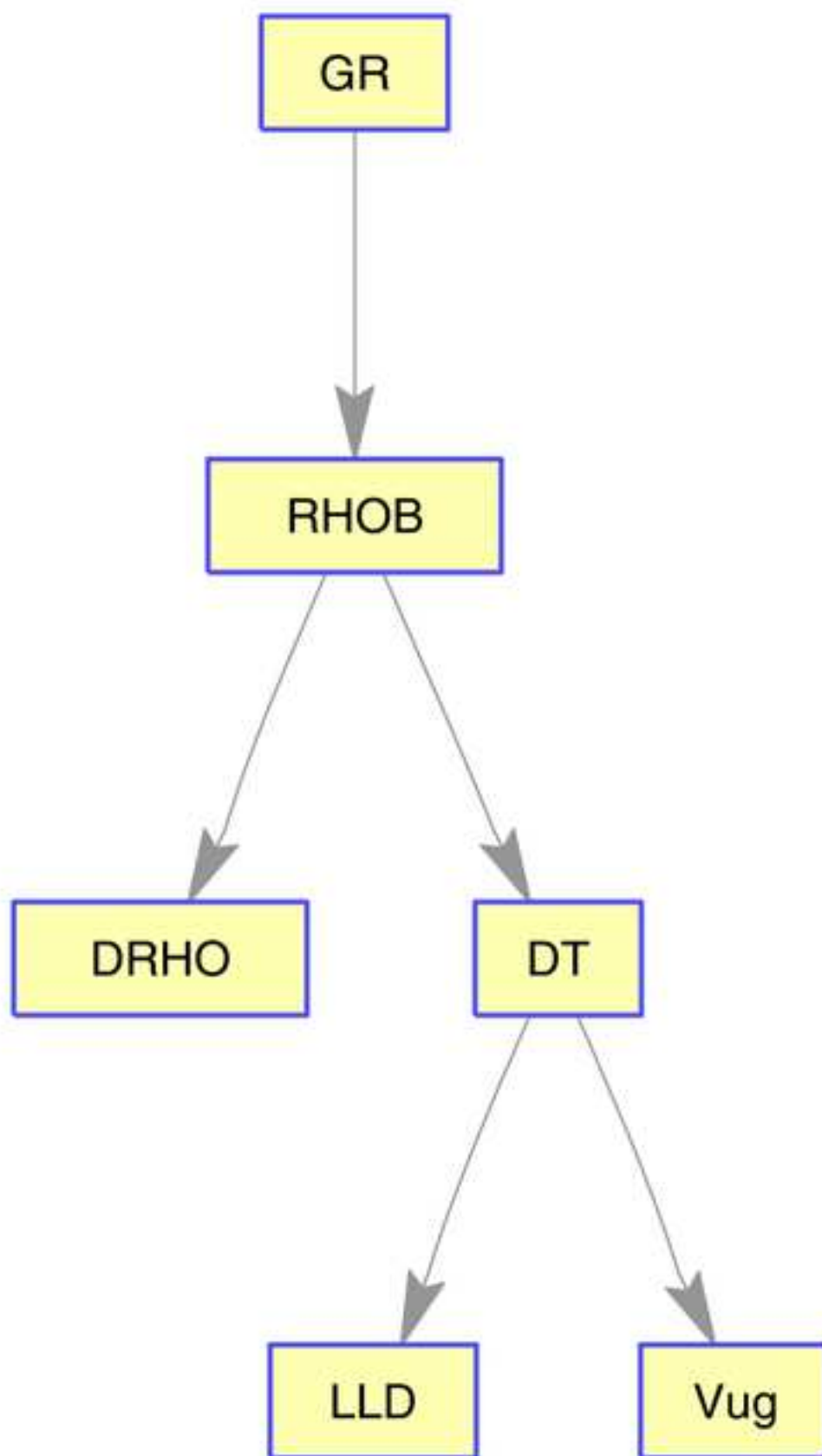


Figure9d  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

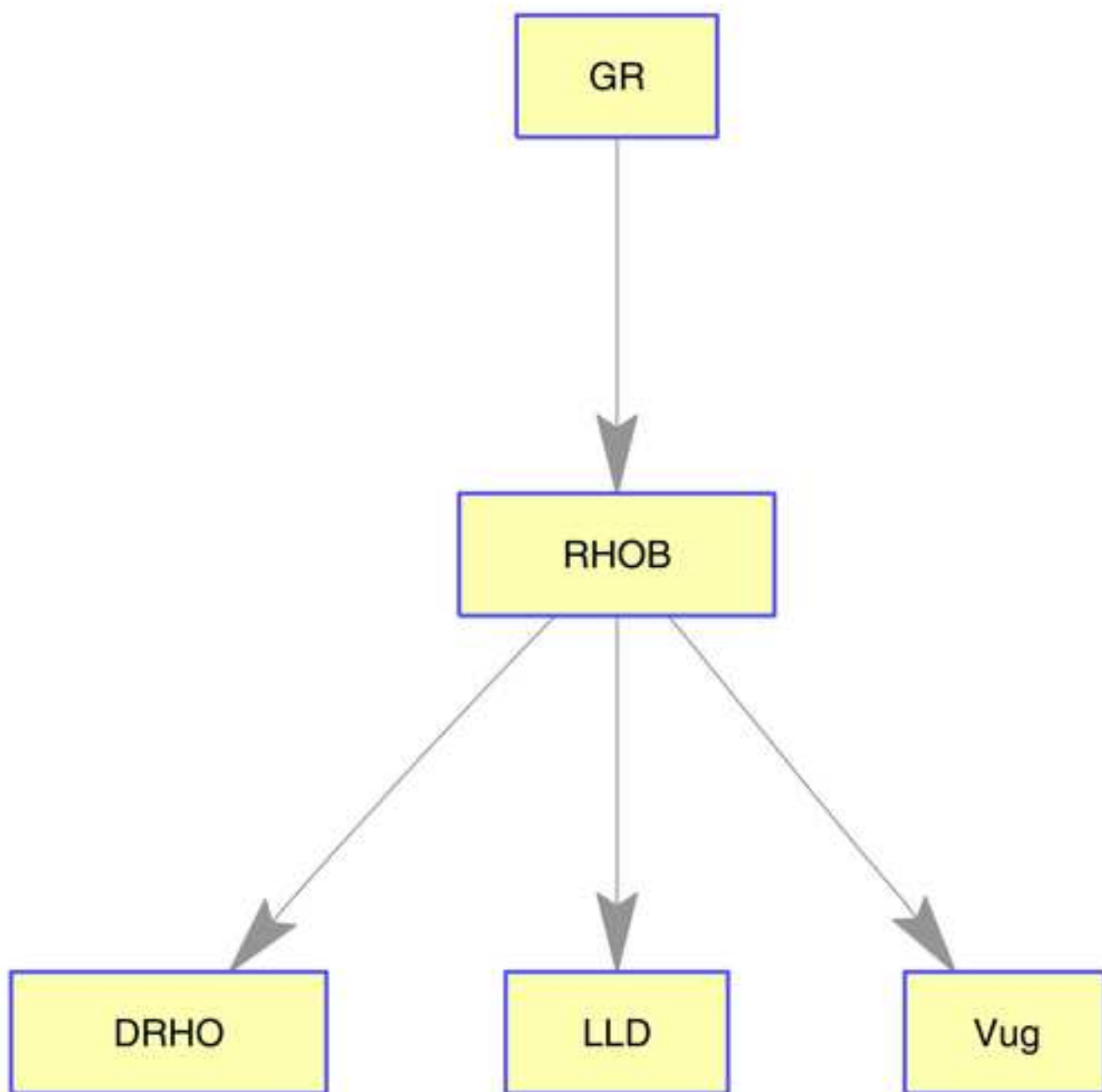


Figure9e  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)

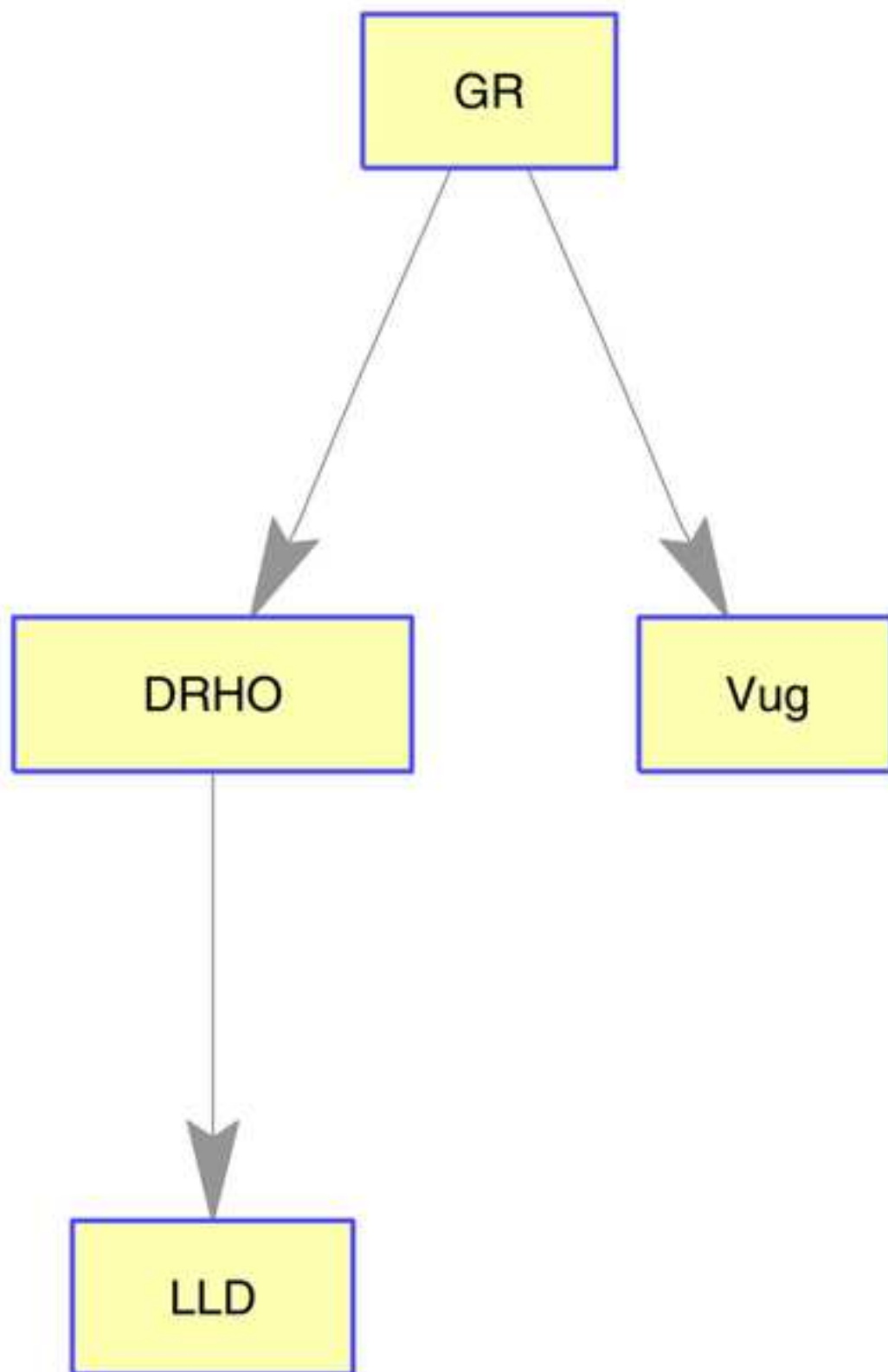
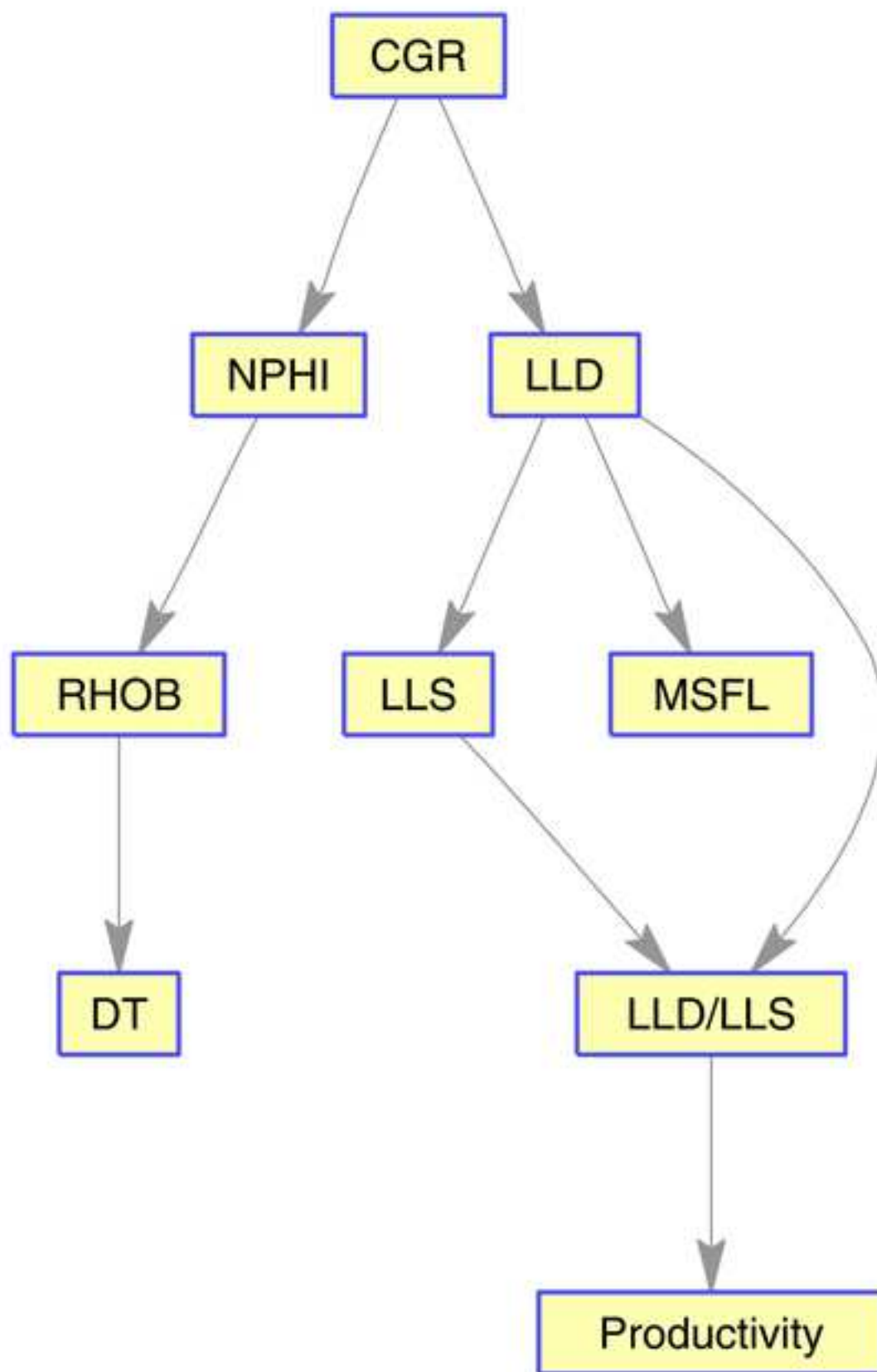






Figure10b  
[Click here to download high resolution image](#)



**Table 1.** *The table shows what reservoir properties are studied in which field*

		Porosity	Permeability	Net Pay	Fracture	Vug
F1: 6 wells	Abadan Plain	✓	✓	✓		
F2: 1 well	South Dezful				✓	
F3: 1 well	Central Lurestan					✓

**Table 2.** Summary of dataset of F1 oil field, available for evaluating causality relationships for assessing porosity, permeability and net pay zones

		Well 1	Well 2	Well 3	Well 4	Well 5	Well 6
		3	2	4	1	✖	1
No. of Well Test Intervals		3	✖	1	1	✖	✖
		✖	1	1	1	✖	3
Petrophysical Well Logs	Calliper (CALI)	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓
	Gamma Rey (GR)	✓	✖	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Gamma Ray Contribution from Thorium and Potassium (CGR)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sonic Log (DT)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Thermal Neutron Porosity in Selected Lithology (NPHI)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Bulk Density (RHOB)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Bulk Density Correction (DRHO)	✓	✖	✓	✓	✖	✖
	Laterolog Deep Resistivity (LLD)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Laterolog Shallow Resistivity (LLS)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Micro-spherically-focused Resistivity (MSFL)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Photoelectric Factor (PEF)	✓	✖	✖	✓	✓	✖
Core Tests	Porosity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖
	Permeability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖

**Table 3.** *Petrophysical parameters for porosity estimation in various references*

	Used Parameters for Estimation	Source
Porosity	NPHI, Density, Sonic, Resistivity	(Helle et al. 2001)
	DT, GR, ILD, ILS, NPHI, RHOB	(Jalali Lichaei and Nabi Bidhendi 2006)
	CGR, DT, LLD, LLS, MSFL, NPHI, RHOB	(Masoudi et al. 2011b)
Permeability	NPHI, Density, Sonic, Resistivity	(Helle et al. 2001)
	Depth, DT, GR, ILD, ILS, RHOB, Sw, Porosity	(Jalali Lichaei and Nabi Bidhendi 2006)
	NMR	(Fethi et al. 2010; Timothy et al. 2008)
	SGR, CGR, RHOB, TNPH (Thermal Neutron Porosity), Rs (medium resistivity), Rt (deep Resistivity), Rxo (shallow resistivity), DT, VCLAY (clay volume)	(Shahvar et al. 2009)
	Saturation, Gamma, Neutron, RHOB, PEF, DT, Resistivity	(Saemi et al. 2007)
	Gamma, DT, Nphi, RHOB, LLD/LLS	(Ibrahim Sami and Adel 2010)
	NPHI, RHOB, DT, LLD, SGR, CGR	(Mehri 2010)
	CGR, DT, LLD, LLS, MSFL, NPHI, RHOB	(Masoudi et al. 2011b)

**Table 4.** *Petrophysical parameters for evaluating secondary porosity*

	Used Parameters for Identification	Source
Fracture	Water Saturation, GR	(Tokhmechi et al., 2009)
	Calliper, DT, RHOB, PEF	(Tokhmchi et al., 2010)
	DT, RHOB, NPHI, Resistivity	(Ja'Fari et al., 2012)
Vug	NPHI, DT, GR, Calliper	(Asgarinezhad et al., 2011)
	NPHI, DT, GR, RHOB	(Asgari-Nezhad et al., 2012)

**Table 5.** *Petrophysical parameters for net pay determination in various references*

Used Parameters for detection	Source
Shale Volume, Porosity, Water Saturation	(Jensen and Menke 2006; Mahbaz et al. 2011; Worthington 2010)
Permeability, Porosity, Viscosity, Compressibility	(Masoudi et al. 2011b)
Porosity, Water Saturation, Shale Volume	(Masoudi et al. 2012a)
Ratio of LLD to LLS and LLD	(Masoudi et al. 2012c)

**Table 6.** Result of feature selection for porosity, permeability, fracture detection, vug detection and net pay determination due to correlation coefficient and Bayesian Network

	1 <sup>st</sup> stage	2 <sup>nd</sup> stage	3 <sup>rd</sup> stage
<b>Porosity</b>	RHOB	LLD	--
	DT	CGR	
	NPHI		
<b>Permeability</b>	Porosity	LLD	--
	RHOB	NPHI	
		DT	
<b>Fracture</b>	DT	RHOB	PEF
	SGR		CGR
	NPHI		
<b>Vug</b>	DT	--	--
	RHOB		
	Cali		
<b>Net Pay</b>	LLD/LLS	LLS	--
	LLD	RHOB	